

Living as Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 3:17-21

17 *Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.*

18 *For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.*



19 *Their destiny is destruction,
their god is their stomach,
and their glory is in their shame.
Their mind is set on earthly things.*

20 *But our citizenship is in heaven.*

*And we eagerly await a Savior
from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

21 *who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under
his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like
his glorious body.*



Ephesians 2:19

“You were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.... Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.”



Hebrews 11:13-16

13 *“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.*

And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

14 *People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.*

16 *Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”*



Facts on Our Heavenly Citizenship

(Philippians 4:3)

Phil.4:3

*“the rest of my fellow workers,
whose names are in the book of life.”*

Luke 10:17-20

“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!”

Jesus replied, *“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*



Revelation 3:5

“He who overcomes ... I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”

Revelation 21:7

“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”



I. Follow Godly Examples (3:17)

“Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.” Phil. 3:17

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do.”

But, *“When on earth, do NOT do as the earthlings do!”*

“Follow me! Do as I do! Live like I live!”

1 Cor.11:1 *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*



“Take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.” (3: 17b)

The word **“pattern”** means:

“an impression or mark made by a blow.”

“impress or figure made by a seal or a die.”

John 20:25

The *nail prints* in Jesus’ hands.



II. Focus on Heavenly Values

(Phil.3:18-19)

Philippians 3:18-19

18 *“For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.*

19 *Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.”*



1 Cor. 1:18

“For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”

Mark 8:31

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected.”

Matthew Henry

“Are you like the Roman soldiers who came near the cross, but only to mock, throw dice and play games?”



The Enemies of the Cross (v.19)

- 1) *“Their destiny is destruction” (19a)*
- 2) *“Their god is their stomach” (19b)*
- 3) *“Their glory is in their shame” (19c)*

“Their mind is on earthly things” (19d)

Colossians 3:2

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”



III. Fix Our Eyes on Christ's Return (Phil.3:20-21)

Philippians 3:20-21

20 *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

21 *who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*



Matthew 24:30

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”

John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”



Titus 2:13

*“for the blessed hope —
the glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”*

Two things will happen. **(Phil.3:21)**

First:

*“[He] will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his
glorious body.”*

Second:

“to bring everything under his Control” (NIV);

“He will subject all things to Himself” (KJV).



Philippians 2:9-11

9 *“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

11 *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*



CONCLUSION:

I. Follow Godly Examples (3:17)...

- to learn from **godly** people...
- to live a **godly** life...
- to be a **godly** examples to others

II. Focus on Heavenly Values (18-19)...

- God has changed our **mind** so that we live according to heaven's values.

III. Fix Our Eyes on Christ's Return (20-21)...

- dwelling daily on the **thought** of *His return*...

