



## SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for Sunday, February 11, 2024

**Series:** Authentic: "Real Life in Christ: Inside and Out"

**Sermon Title:** "Our Citizenship Is in Heaven"

**Pastor:** Glyn Norman

**Primary Text:** Philippians 3:17-21

### **Theme/Concept:**

Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we are to follow Christ, as believers before us have followed Christ Jesus. Our primary identity is as a citizen of Heaven. We need to avoid the temptations to place other identities and attractions ahead of the Lord Jesus.

### **Icebreaker (for groups):**

Share an early memory of knowing your identity such as your family name, place of residence, family members etc.

### **Reflections on the Sermon:**

What points and examples stood out for you in this week's sermon? Did you hear something new?

### **Scripture Passage:**

Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> 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.

### **Reviewing the Scripture:**

1. In verse 17 what did the Apostle Paul request of the Philippian church?
2. What was Paul's concern in verse 18, and what did his tone seem to be in this verse?

3. In verse 19 Paul wrote of serious consequences for some believers at that time. What did he tell the church in Philippi?
4. According to verse 20, where is our citizenship, and how are we to view our homeland?
5. The Apostle Paul encouraged and instructed the believers in verse 21. Give a summary of his words in this verse.

**Going Deeper:**

1. What does it mean in practical ways to have our citizenship in Heaven?
2. How would you explain to someone what it means to be an “enemy of the cross”?
3. What are some tangible and practical ways that believers could put other loyalties and allegiances behind one’s first love for Jesus?
4. Paul wrote of believers who are “proud of what they should have been ashamed of”. What do you think he meant? What might he have observed?
5. How can we live out our belief that this world is temporary? What will those around us see and observe in our “patterns of lifestyle”?

### **Personal Reflection Questions:**

1. Do you feel called to live in such a way that inspires others to deeper discipleship? Do people in your life know that you are a Jesus- follower? Ask the Lord to help you in this regard.
  
2. Are there times when you are tempted to demonize those who disagree with you? Ponder how believers in the Lord Jesus desire to bring glory to His name during discussions with others.
  
3. Can you think of anything new or different that you could do as a faithful subject of the Kingdom of the Lord in this season? Perhaps your small group can participate together on a Trinity work day or during the upcoming Community Ministry Super Serve Day (March 16) or Orange County Rescue Mission Serve Day (March 23).

### **Closing Prayer:**

Our Dear Heavenly Father,

We praise you for your sovereignty and power. Thank you for providing our salvation through Jesus, our Savior, making us citizens of Heaven. As your children, we long for the day when we will be with you in your heavenly home. Help us to be faithful Jesus – followers every day.

In Jesus' name, Amen.