

Good News Church GA  
**Midweek Connect**  
3-24-26

Sermon Series:

***“Joy in the Journey”***

Paul’s letter to the Philippians

**SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 3:17-21**

<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.

## Sermon & Book Notes

Sermon – *“Citizens of Joy”* (Ray Souza)

*“Be Joyful”* (Wiersbe) Ch. 10 – *“Living in the Future Tense”*

Because Paul had the spiritual mind, he was heartbroken over the way some professed Christians were living, people who “mind earthly things.”

Paul was writing here about professing Christians and not people outside of the church. The Judaizers, on the other hand, were the “enemies of the cross of Christ,” adhering to the Old Testament dietary laws and thus making a god out of the belly. These men were not spiritually minded’ they were earthly minded.

**“The spiritual mind makes the believer think more clearly and get things done more efficiently. To be “spiritually minded” simply means to look at earth from heaven’s point of view.** “Give your heart to the heavenly things, not to the passing things of earth” (Col. 3:2). “Practice occupying your minds with the things above, not with the things on earth” (Col. 3:2). D. L. Moody used to scold Christians for being “so heavenly minded they were no earthly good,” and that exhortation still needs to be heeded. Christians have a dual citizenship—on earth and in heaven—and our citizenship in heaven ought to make us better people here on earth. The spiritually minded believer is not attracted by the things of this world.” (pg. 120)

**“For our citizenship is in heaven” (Phil. 3:20). The Greek word translated “conversation” or “citizenship” is the word from which we get the English word politics.** It has to do with one’s behavior as a citizen of a nation.

- **KEY THOUGHT:** We are citizens of heaven occupying a foreign land. That we are “citizens of heaven” changes everything (our attitude, perspective, priorities, purpose, and politics). Our “politics” and “conversations” ought to reflect that of our heavenly citizenship. As ambassadors of the Kingdom of God and citizens of heaven, we are no better than those who are not. The difference is that we are like lanterns whose lamps have been lit by the Holy Spirit with the light of the love of Christ.

“Paul was encouraging us to have the spiritual mind, and he did this by pointing out the characteristics of the Christian whose citizenship is in heaven. Just as Philippi was a colony of Rome on foreign soil, so **the church is a “colony of heaven” on earth.**” (pg. 122)

- **DRUE’S COMMENT:** One of the primary reasons that Good News Church meets in brewery environments is because we believe that we are “an outpost of the Kingdom of God.” This is the same thing that Wiersbe is saying.

**The Christian’s name is written in “the book of life,” and this is what determines his final entrance into the heavenly country (Rev. 20:15).** When you confess Christ on earth, He confesses your name in heaven (Matt. 10:32–33). Your name is written down in heaven (Luke 10:20), and it stands written forever. (The Greek verb “written” in Luke 10:20 is in the perfect tense: “it is once-for-all written and stands written.”). (pg. 123)

**“Speaking heaven’s language not only involves what we say, but also the way we say it.** The spiritually minded Christian doesn’t go around quoting Bible verses all day! But he is careful to speak in a manner that glorifies God. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6). No believer ought ever to say, “Now take this with a grain of salt!” Put the salt into your speech!” (pg. 124)

“They were obeying “carnal [fleshly] ordinances” (Heb. 9:10), regulations that appealed to the flesh and were not directed by the Spirit. But the true believer crucifies the flesh (Gal. 5:24). He also crucifies the world (Gal. 6:14).” (pg. 126)

“Paul wept because he knew the future of these men: “whose end is destruction” (Phil. 3:19). This word carries with it the idea of waste and “lostness.” (It is translated “waste” in Mark 14:4.) Judas is called “the son of perdition,” and this is the word used (John 17:12). A wasted life and an eternity of waste! In contrast, the true child of God, whose citizenship is in heaven, has a bright future.” (pg. 126)

**“There is tremendous energy in the present power of a future hope.** Because Abraham looked for a city, he was content to live in a tent (Heb. 11:13–16). Because Moses looked for the

rewards of heaven, he was willing to forsake the treasures of earth (Heb. 11:24–26). Because of the “joy that was set before him” (Heb. 12:2), Jesus was willing to endure the cross.” (pg. 127)

**“The spiritually minded believer does not live for the things of this world; he anticipates the blessings of the world to come. This does not mean that he ignores or neglects his daily obligations, but it does mean that what he does today is governed by what Christ will do in the future.” (pg. 127)**

“Living in the future tense means letting Christ arrange the things in life according to the proper rank. It means living with eternity’s values in view, and daring to believe God’s promise that “he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:17).” (pg. 128-129)

### Discussion Questions

1. What jumps out at you from the scripture text, book reading, or sermon notes?
2. When Paul instructs the Philippians (and us) to follow his example as he follows Christ, what exactly is he talking about? Is he telling us to “be a good Christian” like him? What is he saying?
3. What does it mean to be “spiritually minded?” How can you improve this area of your own life?
4. How does a Christian’s “dual citizenship” affect his or her life?
5. What does it look like for our “politics” and “conversations” to reflect that of our heavenly citizenship?
6. What does it mean to “crucify the flesh?” What does that mean in practical, everyday terms?
7. What do we do when we find that we are loving and over-indulging in the things of this world (“god of our stomach”) rather than the things of God? How do we change?
8. How does having an eternal mindset (looking for the return of Christ) impact how we live our everyday lives?
9. If you had to take an inventory of which citizenship you’re reflecting the most (heaven or earth), what would be the result? What can we do to change so that our lives do more and more look like those who are citizens of heaven?
10. What’s your primary take away from this discussion?