

## ***Living as a Citizen of Heaven***

**Acts 22:22-23:11**

### Main Point:

Since you are a citizen of heaven, live like one here on earth.

1. As a believer, you are a citizen of heaven.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. A citizen of heaven challenges injustice for the sake of Christ.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. A citizen of heaven keeps a clear conscience before God.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. A citizen of heaven exercises shrewdness in his Christian service.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. A citizen of heaven rests trustingly in Christ's providence.

**Philippians 3:20** 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

**Derek Thomas** “The term ... is sometimes translated ‘citizenship’, as though Paul is suggesting that even though he claimed to be a Roman citizen ... he saw himself principally as a citizen of heaven. Now, in this more formal setting before the Sanhedrin, it is as though he was giving us a clue to what was his dominant motivating desire: to live as one who is a member of the kingdom of heaven.”

**Sinclair Ferguson** “We are in Christ; we have experienced a heavenly calling; we belong to another country and are citizens of a different city from this world. [Thus] our character is bound to be different. We inevitably stand out for our mind is not set on earthly things.”

**Dennis Johnson** “If a Roman citizen had received the brutal treatment that Lysias had ordered it would have had dire consequences for the tribune's career and person.”

**Derek Thomas** “Unlawful use of power should be challenged, for it undermines the respect that ought to be given to those who exercise civil authority. Challenging civil power, however, should always be done respectfully and with a view to honoring Christ.”

**Dennis Johnson** “Paul not only called Roman authorities to follow due Roman process, he also expected Israel's leaders to observe the demand of God's law for impartial justice, in which punishment awaits conviction on the basis of evidence (Lev. 19:15; Deut. 25:1).”

**Matthew 5:25** 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. (NKJV)

**Matthew 10:16** 16 ... Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. (NKJV)

**Acts 28:16** 16 Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him. (NKJV)

**Acts 28:30-31** 30 Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him. (NKJV)