

Philippians 3:20–4:1

“A Citizenship, Savior, Hope, and Joy to Live By”

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How ought a Christian walk that he may not end in destruction? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Philippians 3:20–4:1 prepares us for the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these three verses of holy Scripture, we learn that the Lord has given us a heavenly citizenship, a returning savior, a resurrection hope, and a familial joy by which to walk in this life.

Friday, July 2, 2021 • Read Philippians 3:20–4:1

Questions from the Scripture text: Where is our citizenship (v20)? What else is in heaven? For what are we eagerly waiting? Who is that Savior? What will He do to what (v21)? What will He make our body like? What is He using the same power to do? How many things is He subduing to Himself? What four things does the apostle call them in v1? What does he command them to do?

Life must be lived as an ally of the cross (cf. v18), which means not living for what our earthly flesh desires (v19), but rather for that for which our heavenly Redeemer has died.

It is this last bit upon which these three verses focus. Our heavenly Redeemer died so that we might live on earth in alliance with heaven. For, He has not remained dead. He has risen again, and He has ascended into heaven, and He will return again.

Jesus's death has aimed at our resurrection: glorified bodies which perfectly holy souls employ as His subjects. And that is what our life must aim at in this world.

We are subjects. Citizenship has privileges—glorious privileges! That everlasting blessedness for which Christ has laid hold of us (cf. v12). But part of the delight of being His is the delight that He is the King of heaven, and that as citizens of heaven, we are therefore His subjects. A great part of the pleasure of a Christian in this life is to live as wholehearted, loyal, obedient, faithful subjects of King Jesus of heaven.

We have a Savior. He has not only saved us from the guilt of our sin, but He will ultimately save us from every remaining particle of its power and presence. Why isn't our end destruction (cf. v19)? Because the One Who comes at last to destroy the wicked is presently destroying our wickedness.

He has been our Savior at the cross. He is currently saving us in our sanctification (cf. 2:12–13). And we eagerly wait for Him to appear as the Savior who has come to complete our salvation by resurrection (v21). He is already working by resurrection power to subdue all believers to Himself (v21b).

The apostle again sets himself as an example. If we eagerly await the Lord Jesus as Savior, then we should love and long for those whom He is saving (4:1a). They are our fellow citizen-subjects, but also our brethren in Christ.

They ought to be a great joy to us, for they are not earthly but heavenly; the more that heavenly joys are our great joys, the more joy we will have in heaven's citizens.

And, to the extent that we can stir up one another to love and good works, our brethren in the Lord will be a crown for us. The most golden of earthly crowns has no more ultimate staying power than the quickly-withering laurel wreath that the Romans used to remind themselves how quickly it would vanish. But, when your crown is the work the Lord has done in your fellow believers, it will last forever.

This, then, is the key to standing fast. Stand fast in the Lord. Of Whom we are subjects. Who is our Savior. Past, present, and future.

How do you stay mindful that you are a subject of King Jesus? What are some choices that you have been making that might be improved by aiming at what Jesus is aiming at in your life? In whose spiritual growth are you participating, which will be for you a lasting crown?

Suggested songs: ARP98 “O Sing a New Song” or TPH384 “Lo What a Glorious Sight Appeared”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Philippians chapter 3 verse 20 through chapter 4 verse 1, these are God's words. For our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the savior the Lord Jesus Christ. Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to his glorious body according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things to himself.

Therefore my loved and longed for brethren. My joy and crown. So stand fast in the Lord. Beloved. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word remember last week in the afternoon sermon. We had the many who walk whose end is destruction and we heard about not following then in satisfying the flesh or in depending upon ourselves or so that we would be glorying in or exalting in being full of our shame.

And he says don't walk after the pattern of those whose end is destruction for as he begins verse 20 hour citizenship is in heaven, so he gives us four reasons why not to walk after her to follow the example of believers who are either living for the pleasure of this life or proud of theology that makes them feel okay about sinning or trusting in themselves or.

Setting their minds on earthly things allowing something other than Jesus who is in heaven to set the agenda for their lives and he says don't follow don't walk in a manner that follows or imitates or follows the pattern of people who walk like that because for and he gives us four things in our verses this week in verse 20 through verse 1 of chapter 4.

He says we have a citizenship we have a savior. We have a hope. And we have a joy. We have a citizenship we have a savior we have a hope we have a joy it says four hours citizenship is in heaven now what form

of government is heaven. Heaven is not a democracy.

Or a republic. Heaven is a monarchy that means it's ruled by a monarch a king and if you are a citizenship of a kingdom of a monarchy or of a kingdom that means you are a subject we owe obedience to our king so as a wonderful thing imagine at the Olympics later this year different athletes from the different countries will be saying well I'm from this country.

I'm from that country. Well a Christian can say I'm from heaven. I am from the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ the little stone without hands it grows into a great mountain and destroys all the other kingdoms, it's a wonderful glorious thing to be a citizen of heaven. But if you're a citizen of heaven, you're also a subject of King Jesus.

It means we must live not for our flesh to please ourselves, but for the priorities of heaven to please our king. We're not only subjects we don't not only do we have a citizenship but the second place we have a savior. We have a savior from which continuing in verse 20 from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now you remember last week in verse 18 those who walk according to the flesh walk as enemies of the cross of Christ and that means a number of things but one of the things it means is that whereas Jesus died for sinners. That we would not only be forgiven of the guilt of our sin but delivered both from the power and ultimately from the presence of our sin he died not just so that we could you have our account fixed with God but so that we might at last be forever and ever infinitely perfectly happy beyond what we can even imagine now in glory with him for which we need perfect holiness because we don't even desire him like we should now we wouldn't even enjoy him if we had him now.

We would not enjoy him as we should. And so Jesus has crossed as aiming at our perfect holiness and happiness forever and ever. And his salvation includes all of those things is you know, you get people you can hear people say talking about when they came to faith in Jesus Christ, I got saved.

And it's true. He got saved at that point, but Scripture also tells us that we are being saved and Scripture tells us that we will. Be saved one of our favorite. Verses that reminds us of that is Romans 13 where he says that our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Okay, so instead of being an enemy of the class of Christ, we need to be an ally of the cross of Christ. We need to be living for the same thing that Jesus died for. We need to be living for the same thing that Jesus is ruling in heaven for.

We need to be living for the same thing that Jesus poured out his spirit upon us. For. And so instead of being enemies of the cross and of the king and of the spirit, we need to be allies, we need to be on the same side as the cross and as Jesus our savior and as his spirit whom he is poured out.

And so since we are eagerly waiting for the savior the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to be eagerly doing that which he has left for us to do. We need to be participating in his plan. He remember the many parables the Lord Jesus told about a master going away for.

A long time. And the servants who are left behind and sometimes they had miners and sometimes they had talents which were weights of money and he described it as doing work while the master is gone, well we have a master whom we are eagerly awaiting and if you are eagerly awaiting him then you're not like the lazy servants who said he's gone a long time, we don't really care about what he left us to do but we're gonna be afraid or we're not going to work hard no if you're eagerly waging for his return.

The eagerly expecting his return, then you are in the time that he is gone working as hard as you can and as gladly as you can on the things that he has left for you to do and so this is a question for each of you, are you eagerly awaiting the return of the Lord Jesus Christ would you love it if he would return?

And it's a little bit easy for us to say oh yes, I feel in my mind and my heart like I would love it if Jesus to return right now but we know that from Jesus's teaching the fact about whether or not we're eagerly awaiting his return is shown by whether we are participating in his work, if one of the master is gone, we are preparing for his return, are you living in a way that says you want to be holy so that you can be happy.

When Jesus returns. Okay, so we have a citizenship we have a savior and we have a hope and that is his return not only that he will perfect the work of making us holy but verse 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to his glorious body according to the working by which he is able even to subdue all things to himself and so it's so silly we keep doing.

It we keep trying to make ourselves feel better by eating certain kinds of food or we think that you know, we can that we want to spend our lives playing and have all kinds of fun and we try and please the flashing says don't you realize even that you're actual physical flesh that you have now isn't the flesh that you've you're meant for that you're going to have a glorious new body.

With all sorts of new abilities and appetites and pleasures and you won't even have sin at that time so you'll be able to enjoy to the full this glorious new body that is like Christ's resurrection body forever and ever in a new heavens and a new earth without the problem of sin making everything be out of proportion.

And so so it's so foolish of us to live for or try to satisfy the pleasures of the flesh that we have in this life and yet we keep doing it and so he says don't don't forget not only do you have a citizenship not only do you have a savior who's doing a work and is going to return for you that you're eagerly waiting but you have a hope this new glorious body and you also have a joy and that is participating in one another salvation, therefore my beloved and long for brethren my joy and crown so stand.

Fast in the Lord beloved the apostle was excited for the day that the Lord Jesus returns and all these that he had been a part of their coming to faith in Jesus and their growing in Jesus, they would all be perfect well. I say this very. Very sincerely you my dear children my wife you are.

My joy and crown and a big part of my joy and crown that I will have in that day because one of the thing that the Lord has given me and has given each of you as we got around this table as we read and pray and sing together is he's giving each one of us a huge part in the other ones coming to faith in Jesus Christ and growing in Jesus Christ and becoming more and more holy like we will be on that day and at the resurrection when Jesus comes and you and I see one another, And we see the completed work of Christ in one another I will look at you and I will rejoice that God used not only me in your life but you and my life and that will be a big part of the crown that we get not the fading Laurel wreath that withered very quickly that the Romans had but an eternal crown of having been used in one another's lives, and of course, we know that that's not just us around this table it's especially those it with whom.

We are in the same congregation as we gather Lord spayed day by Lord's day and forsake not the assembling of ourselves together and stir one another up to love and good works as we admonish one another and Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs as we proclaim the Lord's death to one another at the Lord's table as we in the Ephesians chapter four way are those joints every one of which supplies something to the rest of the body and every member has its share so it's not just the apostle who has the Philippians as his joy and He's thinking about how the more that he walks with the Lord and the more that they have a pattern in him and that they're following his pattern as part of how they grow in Christ and at the last day he'll come and he'll see all of these perfectly sanctified glorified Philippians and they'll say my joy and crown look at what the Lord let me have the privilege of participating in him do but they would have one another as a joy and crown because the Lord gave them the privilege of participating in what he was doing in their lives and We have.

At that privilege with one another in our congregation and especially in this home. This is the nearest and dearest the greatest part of the congregation for you. Are your brothers and sisters around this table? Listen to the affection, therefore my beloved and longed for brethren my joy and crown stand fast in the Lord.

So he's saying stand fast in the Lord. He's saying you have that citizenship. You have that savior? You have that hope so stand fast. But my beloved and long for brethren my joy and crown so stand fast on the Lord bluffed. Now when you and I speak crossly to each other or get frustrated with each other or we misplaced something and we immediately accuse someone of having taken it.

When we say each other's names like they are expletives expletive dilatatives. When we mistreat one, another isn't that the most opposite thing of thinking of one another as a joy and crown of thinking of each other as beloved and longed for and beloved like it says in verse one of chapter four.

One of the things that God has given us to help us walk with him is to have the joy of participating in one another's walking with him. And so, we need to really work on that. I think loving one another well and viewing this sanctification project as a as a group project where we all have our part and we do it together because we're looking forward to the joy that we'll have.

When the work is done. So last week's passage don't walk as those whose end is destruction this week's message. Walk as people who have this end that we have this citizenship that we have the Savior that we have this hope in the Resurrection and that we have this joy and the the Lord gives us having one another even as a crown when we arrived.

Let's pray. Our Father in heaven how we thank you? That you have set this before us this morning as a family we know Lord that these are things that we have believed and heard many times in many ways. We do confess that we have not lived well in this way aiming at heaven aiming at eternity aiming at being subject to King Jesus.

Aving at what the Master who is going to return wants us to be doing. And realizing that we even have a new glorified physical body coming. Lord help us to think about these things and to have our desires and plans and priorities shaped by these truths these realities do pray especially that you would make

this a house of heavenly delighting in one another that we would be one another's joy and crown in the last day.

Grant us all these things we asked Jesus our savior our king for whom we do eagerly await. Through asking his name amen.