

When We All Get to Heaven; Philippians 3:20-21

- I. Citizenship
 - a. We all need a place to call home, “in the mansions, bright and blessed, He’ll prepare for us a place”
 - i. Home is a place of comfort, safety, security
 - ii. We often say, “I need a vacation from my vacation,” meaning our vacation was a lot of work
 - iii. There is nothing like our own bed
 - b. “This world is not my home”
 - i. Hebrews 11:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:13–16 (ESV) ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
 - c. We have a home not made with hands
 - i. John 14:2–3 (ESV) ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
 - ii. We are strangers and exiles on the earth just like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 - iii. Recognizing our resident alien status may help us to keep focused on the tasks God has set out for us (sharing the Gospel, helping those in need)
 - d. “Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing His mercy and His grace”
- II. Waiting
 - a. “While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will overspread the sky”
 - b. Philippians 3:20 (ESV) ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - c. While our citizenship is in heaven, we are resident aliens living here
 - d. God has given us a mission to complete while we are waiting
 - e. Say no to sin
 - i. 2 Peter 3:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

- ii. We must have a passionate (vehement) hatred for evil (Abhor what is evil, Romans 12:9)
 - iii. Sometimes (most of the time, really) evil is dressed up trying to trick us into thinking it is good (deceiving us)
 - iv. Genesis 3:1 (ESV) ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
 - v. 1 John 1:8–2:1 (ESV) ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
 - vi. Say no to Sin!
 - f. Share the Gospel
 - i. John 17:20 (ESV) ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
 - ii. We have the very words of the apostles and prophets written down for us
 - iii. The very words that show us the savior who brings us eternal life
 - iv. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - v. We hold the power to raise the dead in our hands, the very words of God (Romans 1:16)
 - vi. Why would we hold that back from anyone?
 - g. Help others
 - i. Mark 12:28–31 (ESV) ²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
 - ii. Compassion and love for the lost (loving your neighbor) compels us to bear their burdens with them
 - iii. We are supposed to be zealous (eager) for good works (Titus 2:14)
 - iv. We were created for good works (Ephesians 2:10)
 - v. These good works complete our faith, changing it from a dead faith to saving faith (James 2:22)
 - h. “But when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh”
- III. Transformation

- a. “Just one glimpse of Him in glory will the toils of life repay”
- b. Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- c. We are not given much about heaven – we get a glimpse of the throne room from John
 - i. Revelation 4:1–3 (ESV) ¹ After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
 - ii. Revelation 4:6 (ESV) ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:
 - iii. But look what is happening in the throne room
 - iv. Revelation 4:8–11 (ESV) ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
 - v. If you keep reading, we find more and more singing and worshipping
 - vi. All the issues of this life, our lives, filled with sorrow, pain, toil, and suffering are transformed into worship and singing!
- d. Even our bodies will be transformed
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:42 (ESV) ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.
 - ii. Just like a seed that is sown in the ground, it dies to produce something new
 - iii. That ‘something new’ is imperishable, eternal!
 - iv. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom (verse 50)
 - v. 1 Corinthians 15:52–53 (ESV) ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

IV. Heaven

- a. Remember, our citizenship is in heaven not this earth

- b. Our task (here) is to share the Gospel and help those in need
- c. "When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be"
- d. "When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory"