

All Saints Sunday ~ Sunday, November 3, 2019
"Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ Joyful Citizenship"

Philippians 3:17-21

Piece of Advice #1: _____.

"Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us." (3:17)

If we want to experience the joy of the Lord, no matter what our circumstances, Paul tells us we need to _____ him.

Paul was, without a doubt, the most _____ follower of Jesus.

Even though he was a spiritual _____, Paul often expressed dissatisfaction with his spiritual _____.

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (3:13-14)

Paul was absolutely and joyfully certain of his eternal _____ by God. He had a healthy view of his own strengths *and* weaknesses; and knew, as he wrote in Ephesians 2:10, that he was God's _____. However, he also knew that as God's masterpiece, he was a work in _____; and that God would be faithful to _____ the work that He'd begun in him. And so, in the midst of his weaknesses, his trials and challenges, and his imminent death, Paul was determined to _____ with God in this sanctifying process.

He wasn't calling us to worship him, but to join his example of belief and _____; assurance and diligence. Not anything mechanical; not mimicking some act distinctive to Paul, but the pattern of absolute _____ in the finished work of Jesus to make him secure before the throne of God for eternity. An earnest, relentless reaching _____ for the heavenly prize that awaited him.

Who are you following? Whose life are you imitating?

Do you know the joy of those whose eternal destiny is secure?

Piece of Advice #2: _____.

"For many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things." (3:18-19)

If we want to experience the joy of the Lord, no what our circumstances, Paul tells us we need to imitate him in direct contrast to those who are imitating the _____—those whom he calls "_____ of the cross."

5 REASONS WHY PAUL WEEPS

• "Their end is destruction."

They shouldn't be deceived by the apparent _____ and power of unbelievers because even though life is going great for them now, their ultimate destiny is _____.

"These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might..." (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

• "...their God is their appetite..."

Appetite = *koilia* = _____ =

These people _____ their bodies and pamper themselves so much so that self-pleasure has become an _____ in their lives.

• "...their glory is their shame..."

The very things they should be _____ of are what they glory in. All of those things that Paul, only a few verses before, said that he considered _____ for the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus.

• "...they set their minds on earthly things..."

This last point is actually the _____ of the first three. All they can see is this life—the 60, 70, 80 years that we get on earth—and so they live for this _____ only.

Our behaviour will always be determined by what we _____, and what we believe will always be evident in our _____. If our _____ is set on earthly things behaviour will follow suit.

• **He was once** _____.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life." (1 Timothy 1:12-16)

Whenever we catch ourselves getting our hackles up at non-Christians because of the things they say and do in their _____, we need to let the Holy Spirit stop

us in our tracks and _____ us of the times we've acted in _____
—even as believers. And to remind us that it's only by God's _____ that we
now stand in hope. When it comes to unbelievers, we shouldn't pattern our lives
after them, but we shouldn't _____ them either. Like Paul, we need to have
_____ for them.

**How do you react to those who are critical of you because of your faith?
Do you weep for nonbelievers or do you judge them?**

OUR REASON FOR JOY

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.” (3:20-21)

Unlike the enemies of the cross who live only for this _____, Paul tells us that our primary citizenship is in _____.

We're either a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven, or a citizen of the kingdom of this world; the Kingdom of _____, or the kingdom of _____.

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.” (Ephesians 2:2)

Paul contrasts this with terms that relate to the _____ of believers:

“Heirs of God and fellow heirs with Jesus Christ,” (Romans 8:17)

“...fellow citizens with the saints and...of God's household.” (Ephesians 2:19)

It's important to note that these terms are all in the _____ tense.

It's a present reality that's has both physical and spiritual _____.

Physically, we are citizens of heaven here and now; today; even as we walk this _____
_____. We are a colony of _____, travelling far from home.

Spiritually, we are citizens of heaven here and now; today; who have been _____
_____ up with Christ (Col 3:1); delivered from the dominion of darkness and _____
_____ to the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col 1:13); and _____
_____ in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:6).

Being a citizen of heaven means that we've been washed, _____,
and made a brand new _____—people who are _____ this world, but
not _____ it. It means that we're part of that great cloud of witness that we read
about in Hebrews 12:1—all those _____ who have gone before us and who
we'll be reunited with in eternity with God.

OUR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

• _____.

We are _____ to come and go to and from the very throne room of the King of heaven at will.

“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

• _____.

We are citizens of a Kingdom ruled by a King who wants our _____.

Wherever we find ourselves, and in whatever circumstances, He is _____ us and promises to _____ us. And He is more than _____!

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

• _____.

Simply put, prayer is " _____ to God." It's the communication of the human soul with the One who created it. As citizens of heaven, we have the right to pray, to _____, and to move God's _____ for others.

As Jesus says in; “So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24)

• **Plenipotentiary** _____.

This is a diplomatic term that comes from the Latin word meaning “full power or _____;” somebody who is authorized to _____ someone else without having to check back because they've been given full power and authority to _____. We have the authority to _____ anyone we want to the kingdom and usher them into equal citizenship. We don't have to check with anyone else, we can simply make the offer of God's peace and salvation and broker the deal.

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us...” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

**Do you view yourself primarily as a Canadian—as a citizen of this world
or as a citizen of heaven, with all its rights and privileges?**

How does your heavenly citizenship effect your daily life and living?