

**REMINDER:** Go to <http://happenings.gracechapelchurch.com/> to view this week's bulletin, order of worship and songs we will enjoy together. Stay connected!

**TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN**  
**Citizens of Heaven - Residents of this World**  
**Philippians 3:17-21**

**BIG IDEA:** Citizens of heaven live with a radically different view of this world because this is not home.

**ICE BREAKER**

1. What are some of the good things that you remember about home as a child?
2. If you have children, what would they say are some of the good things about your home?

**THINK**

1. As time goes by, what changes about our homes in this world?
2. What do you think our eternal home will be like?
3. If God has prepared an eternal home for us, why do you think He put us here in this world first?

**EXAMINE**

Answer the following questions after reading these passages from **Philippians 3:17-21**.

**Philippians 3:17** *Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.* (NLT)

- What are some of the role models the world follows?
- What are some problems with these role models...even the ones we would say are good?
- Is Paul being arrogant by saying he should be their role model... "*pattern your lives after mine*"? Explain.
- How can we find such role models?
- How can we become such a role model?

**Philippians 3:18-19** *For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.* (NLT)

- What is causing Paul to shed tears?
- When Paul talks about, "*enemies of the cross of Christ*", who do you think he is talking about?
- What are the three distinguishing characteristics of someone who is an enemy of the cross?
- Paul makes a judgment based on the conduct of these people. Is it right for us to make a similar judgment of people today?

**Philippians 3:20-21** *But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.* (NLT)

- What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? Benefits? Responsibilities?
- Why do you think Paul was eager for the Lord's return?
- Why would we not be eager for His return?
- What do you think the difference will be between, "*our weak mortal bodies*" and our change "*into glorious bodies like his own*"?

**THIS WEEK:** Begin to think like a resident alien. (Definition of 'Resident Alien' - *A foreigner who is a permanent resident of the country in which he or she resides but does not have citizenship.*) As a follower of Christ, you live in this world, but your citizenship is in heaven. How does that change the way you think about every situation you will face and every decision you will make this week? The worst think that could be said about anyone is that they are enemies of the cross of Christ. Reexamine the conduct of such an enemy and make sure you don't fit the description.