

# Living For The Future

## Philippians 3:17-21

Why was Paul weeping in Philippians 3:18?

- A. For himself and his difficult situation?
- B. Because of what the Roman (or Ephesian) Christians were doing to him?
- C. Because of the way the Christians were living, people who set their mind on earthly things?

How would we describe the men in 3:17-19? (see v19)

To be spiritually minded simply means to look at \_\_\_\_\_ from  
\_\_\_\_\_ point of view (Colossians 3:2)

Paul is encouraging us to have the spiritual mind, and he does this by pointing out the characteristics of the Christian whose citizenship is in heaven...

### I. Our Names Are Written In Heaven

Citizenship is important. When you travel to another country, it is essential that you have a passport that proves your citizenship. The Christian's name is written in "the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_," and this is what determines his final entrance into the heavenly country (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 10:20).

### II. We Speak Heaven's Language

*"They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:5-6)*

Speaking heaven's language not only involves what we say, but also the way we say it. "Let your speech always be with \_\_\_\_\_, as though seasoned with \_\_\_\_\_, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." (Colossians 4:6).

### III. We Obey Heaven's Laws

Paul knew himself to be an " \_\_\_\_\_ " in this world, a "pilgrim and a stranger"

*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)*

#### IV. He Is Loyal Heaven's Cause

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the theme of the Bible, the heart of the Gospel, and the chief source of praise in heaven (Revelation 5:8–10). The Cross is the proof of God's love for sinners (Romans 5:8) and God's hatred for sin. The Cross condemns what the world values. It judges mankind and pronounces the true verdict: *Guilty!*

Paul's enemies became "enemies of the Cross of Christ" (3:18) because the cross ended the Old Testament religion along with the sacrificial system (Hebrews 10:19-25), circumcision (Colossians 2:10-13) and the separation between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14-16).

The Judaizers were minding "earthly things." It is the \_\_\_\_\_ that is central in the life of the believer. He does not glory in men, in religion, or in his own achievements; he glories in the Cross (Galatians 6:14).

#### V. We Are Looking For Heaven's Lord

The Judaizers were living in the past tense, trying to get the Philippian believers to go back to Moses and the Law; but true Christians live in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense, anticipating the return of our Savior (Philippians 3:20–21).

As the *accountant* in Philippians 3:1–11, Paul discovered new *values*. As the *athlete* in Philippians 3:12–16, he displayed new *vigor*. Now as the *alien*, he experiences a new *vision*: "We look for the Savior!" It is this \_\_\_\_\_ of the coming of Christ that motivates the disciple with the spiritual mind (Hebrews 11:13-16, 24-26; 12:2; 1 John 2:28-3:3).

Living in the future tense means letting Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the "things" in life according to the proper rank. It means living "with eternity's values in view," and daring to believe God's promise that "the one who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:17).