

“Five Eternal Perspectives On Earthly Living”

Session IV

Review: A Penetrating Question → “What is happening in my life?”

A Biblical Fact → “Spiritual Maturity demands Believer be Heavenly Minded!”

A. The First of Five Eternal Perspectives: Philippians 1:6

→ God has begun a “**Good Work**” in my life which He is “**perfecting**” in my experience!

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

B. The Second of Five Eternal Perspectives: Philippians 2:13

→ God is at “Work” in my life producing “**Desire**” for the will of God enabling “**Faithful Obedience**” (“Being pleasing to Him”)!

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

C. The Third of Five Eternal Perspectives: Philippians 3:10

→ God is at “Work” in every Believer to produce an “**Experiential Knowledge**” of His Son!

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

The Fourth Eternal Perspective

*“For our citizenship is in heaven,
from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 3:20

**God is at “work” in every Believer to produce an
accurate understanding of our citizenship (home)!**

I. The “_____” of the Believer’s “Citizenship” in Heaven, Phil. 3:20.

*“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

A. The Historical Background: The “_____” of the Philippians!

1. Philippi was a “_____” bringing great “_____”!

“In 42 B.C. the Battle of Philippi was fought west of the city between the Second Triumvirate (Octavian, Antony, Lepidus) and the Republicans of Rome (Brutus, Cassius). The victory of Octavian resulted in Philippi being made a military colony.

Following the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C., in which Octavian defeated Antony, the status of Philippi was raised . . . and later in 27 B.C. (to Roman colony) . . . The change in status provided the inhabitants with numerous advantages, including autonomous government, immunity from tribute, and treatment as if they actually lived in Italy . . . Philippi was the only (Roman) colony in the area (Macedonia)."

--Homer Kent

2. This civic " _____ " is seen in Luke's description in Acts 16:12, 20-21.

"So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; and from there to Philippi, which is a leading ('first, chief') city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony . . ."

" . . . and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, 'These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.'"

Note: Although they were Macedonians in language, culture and location, their " _____ " was " _____ "!

B. The Historical Background: The " _____ " of Paul in Rome!

1. The church in Philippi was founded in A.D. 50 on Paul's _____ missionary journey, after the "Macedonian Vision" from Troas.
2. Paul made a second visit to Philippi on his _____ missionary journey, on his way to Jerusalem, where he was arrested and later sent to Rome for trial.
3. Paul was a _____ in Rome when he wrote this letter to Philippi in A.D. 59-61. This first imprisonment in Rome lasted for two years. (Acts 28:30)
4. The " _____ " of Heaven for Paul in both his first and second imprisonment is seen in his last written words to Timothy, his "dearly beloved son":

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; and in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

II Timothy 4:6-8

Note: Although Paul was in Rome, using his Roman citizenship to extend his life and Gospel witness, his " _____ " was " _____ "!

Question: "Where do we get our _____ ?"
"Where is _____ ?"

C. The Controlling " _____ " for Believers → We are His " _____ "!
→ We are not at " _____ "!

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

John 14:1-3

D. The “_____” of the Believer, Titus 2:11-14.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

Note: The faithful Believer in Jesus Christ is not so “Heavenly Minded” that we are “No Earthly Good”! Rather, we are able to be of “Earthly Good” because we are “Heavenly Minded”!

II. The “_____” of the Believer while away from “Home”, Phil. 3:20.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

A. We have a progressive desire for the “_____” of Christ!

“ . . . in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead,” Phil. 3:11.

Note: The maturing Believer desires to be _____ Jesus Christ!

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect (mature), but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect (mature), have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal it to you.”
Philippians 3:12-17

Question: What is the “goal”, the “prize”?

→ “_____” with Christ in His “_____” glory! (John 17:4-5, 22-24)

B. We demonstrate the reality of being “_____”!

→ I have been “**laid hold of**” by Jesus Christ!

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

II Corinthians 5:14-15

1. Regarding the past:

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind . . .”
Philippians 3:13

--**Question:** Are there specific things that should be placed in my “past”?

2. Regarding the present:

“ . . . and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the UPWARD CALL OF GOD in Christ Jesus.”

--Question: Are there specific things that should be placed in my “future”?

III. The Anticipation of the Believer’s journey “ _____”, Phil. 3:21.

“ . . . who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

→ **The Believer’s journey “Home” will involve a “ _____”!**

--“transform” = metaschematizo = “to refashion, to change outward form”

A. From our present “ _____ state” to likeness to “His _____”!

-- “humble” = tapeinoseos = “lowliness, insignificant, humble”

-- “conformity” = summorphoo = “the changing of the inward and outward substance, conforming to or with something; to render like; to assimilate”

--Expanded Translation: Kenneth Wuest

“ . . . who shall transform this body of ours which has been humiliated (by the presence of sin and death and decay), so that it will be conformed to His body of glory.”

B. Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

C. I Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54.

“So is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”

“Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, we will all be changed, 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 all will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ”

D. I John 3:2-3

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

A Probing Question

“What is my controlling concept of “Home”; where is my “Citizenship”?

--“Earth” which brings bondage and fear; we are pressured to “keep” things!

--“Heaven” which brings freedom and anticipation; we are free to “let things go”!

A Powerful Illustration

The well-known Christian hymn, “*I Have Decided To Follow Jesus*”, was written by an Indian missionary named Sadhu Sundar Singh. He formulated the words from the life testimony of an Indian Christian named “Nokseng”, a Garo man in the Meghalays tribe, living in “Assam”, North-East India.

In the middle of the 19th century, Christian missionaries came to “Assam” from England and Germany. Many tribes in that area were renowned for head-hunting! Nokseng and his family responded to the Gospel and became Christians. As a result, he was called to renounce his faith by the village chief, but declare, “*I have decided to follow Jesus.*” His two children were killed by arrows because he refused to renounce his faith in Christ! When his wife was threatened, he continued, “*Though none go with me, still I will follow.*” His wife was killed by arrows. Then he was executed while singing, “*The cross before me, the world behind me.*” This display of faith is reported to have led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village.

*I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Though none go with me, I still will follow;
Though none go with me, I still will follow;
Though none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turn back, no turning back.”*