

September Teaching Theme: What is the Gospel?

讲员 Speaker: Dr. Ted Moon

题目 Topic: "Where is Your Citizenship?"

经文 Scripture: Philippians 3:18-21

Monthly Theme: This month's theme is "the Gospel" and its implications. **The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that Jesus is King and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever**, thus we must give our allegiance to King Jesus. Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate - a downpayment of our inheritance in the Kingdom. **The Spirit applies the benefits of the gospel to those who respond with allegiance!**

This week we are going to talk about the **Gospel benefit** Glorification. **Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus will be "transformed" into the bodily likeness of Jesus' "gloried body," free from suffering and pain.** "Glorification" is often seen as the fulfillment of the process of "Sanctification" that we are "like Jesus" in both physical and spiritual glory upon his return to establish the new Heaven and new Earth.

Dr. Moon spoke on a very important aspect of the Gospel we have examined from different angles in previous weeks - that our "Citizenship is in Heaven." This is an incredibly important part of the Christian identity, thus we must spend adequate time wrestling with it.

Resources:

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (English) (5:48)

Bible Project Video: [The Gospel of the Kingdom](#) (Chinese) (4:22)

If you have not watched this video yet as a group do so this week

[Pastor Will's Diagram on "Indicatives vs. Imperatives"](#)

[Sermon Video](#)

See Email Attachment for PPT

For the **Memorization Tool:** If you would like to do this in Quiz format feel free to use my Quizziz Game - <https://quizizz.com/admin/presentation/5f525d946e86cd001e481796>

Important Notes (Pastor Will):

Notes on Philippians 3:3-21:

- Citizenship motif plays on their Roman citizenship. Philippi was a bed of "Roman Patriots" as a Roman Military Outpost Colony. Paul doesn't deny the Philippian church's social location but points their "patriotism" to their "heavenly colony" (Kingdom). "Just as Philippi was a colony of Rome, whose citizens thereby exemplified the life of Rome in the province of Macedonia, so the citizens of the 'heavenly commonwealth' were to function as a colony of heaven in that outpost of Rome." - Gordon Fee (already-not yet tension key)

- Similarly, Paul doesn't often use the word "Savior" to describe "Christ" (only one other time in Eph.) thus his use here certainly for the Philippians' sake, since this would have been a common title for Caesar. Also frequent in OT context for YHWH, indicating who Paul thinks Jesus is (both references would be familiar to this audience).
- "We eagerly await a Savior **FROM THERE**" - key for understanding the grand vision. It's not the "go to heaven when I die" idea but the "new heaven and new earth."
- Here we see a lot of themes coming together but the new one we are seeing is **glorification** - that **those who give their allegiance to King Jesus will experience "transformation" ("reversal") from "humiliation" (persecution and trials) to the likeness of Jesus "glorified body."** Scripture doesn't give us much on what a "glorified body" looks like but we do know there is continuity between our physical body now and the future with the absence of pain & suffering (results of evil). We can "rejoice" in suffering because we know God is forming us in the present in them and we will live in "glory" when Jesus returns, free from suffering.

Key To Mindset of "Citizens of Heaven": Heaven isn't some spiritual realm we "fly away to," but we wait for King Jesus to come to us - establishing the New Heaven and New Earth. Thus being a "citizen of heaven" isn't choosing to disengage from the world or being overly-spiritual ignoring the physical. It is instead a call to **engage in the world differently - with a different hope, a different power, and a different ethic.** We should pursue excellence in what we do (career, school, etc.), but our pursuit of excellence must be grounded in our "citizenship of heaven." Our identity isn't found in our born status or our accomplishments but in our "citizenship" in the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Philippians 3:3-21 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the passage?
2. How do you know your name is written in God's Book of Life? (Look to Memorization Tool - How Should We Respond to the Gospel)
3. What does it mean to you to have "citizenship in Heaven"? How does this change how followers of Jesus relate to the world? What are some of Heaven's/God's/The Kingdom's values you find you need to work on?
4. What does it look like to have your mind "set on earthly things"? How can this become "destruction" and "shame"? Why does Paul consider all of his earthly accomplishments and status as "loss"?
5. What good works do you think God has prepared for you to do? (Ephesians 2:10) Can you give an example of something you have done that the Holy Spirit prompted you to do?
6. Are you looking forward to Jesus' return? Why?

Memorization Tool:

- What is the Gospel? - The Gospel of Jesus the Christ is a royal announcement that **Jesus is King** and his Upside-Down Kingdom will reign forever.

- How should we respond to the Gospel? - We are called to respond by **giving our allegiance** (inclusive of faith, loyalty, trust) to King Jesus.
- Our hope is looking forward to Jesus' return establishing the **New Heaven and New Earth**, where those who give King Jesus allegiance will reign with God forever.
- The Gospel benefit "justification": Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are **declared not guilty, being** freed from both the penalty of sin and the power of sin.
- The Gospel benefit "reconciliation": God through Jesus has **healed the fractured relationship between God and humanity**. From this place, we can seek reconciliation in our human relationships.
- The Gospel benefit "ransom": God through Jesus' death on the cross has **bought us out of slavery to sin** and now empowers you through the Holy Spirit to live as the "new humanity."
- The Gospel benefit "adoption": Those who give their allegiance to King Jesus are now **adopted into the royal family of God** and can call God "Abba" (Daddy)
- The Gospel benefit "sanctification": We are being **transformed** by the work of the Spirit and are called to choose to live a "transformed" life.
- The Gospel benefit "glorification": Those who give their allegiance to Jesus will ultimately **be transformed** into the likeness of Jesus in both bodily and spiritual form, no longer experiencing pain and suffering.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

天国的子民

Rev. Moon, 9/20/20

一、序言

很多人住在外国，但保持自己本国的身份。基督徒虽住在这世上，但应属天国的子民，应有天国的身份。非信徒以地上为念，信徒有天国的身份，和在世界上的人有不同的价值观，风俗习惯。作为外交官生活异地，住很久后生活习惯会改变，逐渐被异地同化，而被异国价值观受影响。但基督徒虽生活在地上，但却不忘天国的生活，“你们要思念上面的事，不要思念地上的事。”

歌罗西书 3:2

创世纪中亚伯拉罕的孙子罗得，爱世界，选了所罗马成为他的居住城市，被世界同化，最终失去了神的祝福。摩西在埃及但不受埃及地的价值观影响，虽然离埃及受了很多的苦难，但他以天国为准，被神所用，得神保守祝福。彼得在太 16:23，“耶稣转过来，对彼得说：「撒但，退我后边去吧！你是绊我脚的；因为你体贴神的意思，只体贴人的意思。」”是很好的例子。

罗 8:5-8

“因为，随从肉体的人体贴肉体的事；随从圣灵的人体贴圣灵的事。体贴肉体的，就是死；体贴圣灵的，乃是生命、平安。原来体贴肉体的，就是与神为仇；因为不服神的律法，也是不能服，而且属肉体的人不能得神的喜欢。”

罗马书 8:5-8

这里说到，“体贴肉体的，就是死”。

我们的是天国的公民我们应把眼睛放在永恒。

哥后 4:18

“原来我们不是顾念所见的，乃是顾念所不见的；因为所见的是暂时的，所不见的是永远的。”

笔者：你的世界在那里？

今日经文，

“因为有许多人行事是基督十字架的仇敌。我屡次告诉你们，现在又流泪地告诉你们：他们的结局就是沉沦；他们的神就是自己的肚腹。他们以自己的羞辱为荣耀，专以地上的事为念。我们却是天上的国民，并且等候救主，就是主耶稣基督从天上降临。他要按着那能叫万有归服自己的大能，将我们这卑贱的身体改变形状，和他自己荣耀的身体相似。”腓立比书 3:18-21

保罗流泪所说，好行为进不了天国，而是信，笔者：你的信心在地上还是在天上？信心在天上有什么表现？

二，今天我想讲的是如你真有在天上的信你应具有如下三方面：

1, 你的名字在生命册上

腓利比是罗马公民，当我们成天国公民我们的名字也在公民册上。“凡不洁净的，并那行可憎与虚谎之事的，总不得进那城；只有名字写在羔羊生命册上的才得进去。”启示录 21:27

上帝心意要所有人在生命册，我们要预备，好像旅游前先酒店住房。

“然而，不要因鬼服了你们就欢喜，要因你们的名记录在天上欢喜。”路加福音 10:20

不要以才能或者金钱或者短暂的成功而忘了我们的属性。不是环境不是金钱，而是我们名字在上帝生命册上。

你的名字在生命册上？你是否效忠耶稣，成为天国的子民？

2, 既然是天国的子民，应有天国的价值，

腓3:19 他们的神是他们自己的肚腹，

他们以自己的羞为荣耀，葛培里说：人所赞的，神就不再赞，我们所行的善，不是要为了得人的称赞而是神的称赞。价值观天壤之别。诗115:1, “耶和華啊，榮耀不要歸與我們，不要歸與我們；要因你的慈愛和誠實歸在你的名下！”

提前6:17-19

“你要嘱咐那些今世富足的人，不要自高，也不要倚靠无定的钱财；只要倚靠那厚赐百物给我们享受的神。又要嘱咐他们行善，在好事上富足，甘心施舍，乐意供给人，为自己积成美好的根基，预备将来，叫他们持定那真正的生命。”

笔者：什么是我们的价值？是不是太爱世界？

“不要爱世界和世界上的事。人若爱世界，爱父的心就不在他里面了。因为，凡世界上的事，就像肉体的情欲、眼目的情欲，并今生的骄傲，都不是从父来的，乃是从世界来的。这世界和其上的情欲都要过去，惟独遵行神旨意的，是永远常存。”

约翰一书 2:15-17

爱世界意指爱世界的价值。神的子民关心神的事情，神所关心是我们的品格，选择上帝的价值观，不是选择短暂的事情而是永恒的价值。

3, 盼望耶稣再来

腓3:20-22 “我们却是天上的国民，并且等候救主，就是主耶稣基督从天上降临。”

和主荣耀的身体相似。

约一2:28 “小子们哪，你们要住在主里面。这样，他若显现，我们就可以坦然无惧；当他来的时候，在他面前也不至于惭愧。”

我们要祷告，预备我们，等候主再来，如真有这种心态，我们生命会改变。例子：当你等客上门你定会预备清扫。等主来已会如此，我们的生活和思想清洁态度正确

约一，3:2 “亲爱的弟兄啊，我们现在是神的儿女，将来如何，还未显明；但我们知道，主若显现，我们必要像他，因为必得见他的真体。”

神已改变我们的思想灵魂，有一天我们身体也会改变，成为荣耀的身体，没有疾病，完全不受罪捆绑的自由。如我们是天国的子民我们就应该有如此的盼望。

例子：阿斯贝雷大学，女生不愿听有关天堂的事，因她曾经有流产历史，最后求神坚持不懈的在神面前祷告，求怜悯和神的饶恕我，再终她得了神的饶恕，神给她平安，她又有了盼望去天堂，在天堂她可以见她的孩子。

三，结论

神的子民是有天国的身份，虽住在这世界上，但有天国的价值观。神的子民是有盼望的，盼望有神的恩典有一天能去天国。