



**EARTH-BASED BUT HEAVEN-  
BOUND!**

**Introduction:**

- A. In Philippians, Paul Writes Some Of His BELOVED Brethren. Every Memory Of Them Brought Him Joy! 1:1-8
- B. Even Though They Faced Fervent Opponents 1:28-30, They Continued To Be Solid, Faithful Christians; Paul's Letter To Them Is Optimistic And Filled With Love And Loving Encouragement.
- C. Paul Is In Prison As He Wrote This Letter. 1:12-14; 1:19,20; As They Had Done In Helping Paul During His Mission Trips, The Philippians Now Sent Assistance To Him By The Hand Of Epaphroditus. 2:24-30; 4:14-18.
- D. This Morning's Sermon: "Thinking Like A Christian."
  1. In that sermon I urged us not to think like an atheist or a materialist, not to think like a politician, or not to think like an immoral person.
  2. Rather, we should think like a Christian.
  3. And tonight we build upon that thought -- we are to think like a Christian because that is WHO WE ARE and because WE LOVE CHRIST AND ARE HEADED TO BE WITH HIM ETERNALLY!

**I. (Slide #2) Tonight's Text:**

- A. "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. <sup>18</sup>For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: <sup>19</sup>whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things. (Slide #3) <sup>20</sup>For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to

Himself. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.” Phil. 3:17-4:1

**B. (Slide #4) We Live “In The World, But We Are Not To Be OF The World!**

1. Jesus makes these statements about His Apostles.
  - a. Jn. 15:19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
  - b. Jn. 17:14-16 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”
2. Christian thinking is described by Paul: Gal. 6:14 “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
3. And James says: Js. 1:27 “Pure and undefiled” involves keeping “oneself unspotted from the world.”

**C. (Slide #5) We Are Living In An Empirical World But Headed To A Spiritual World!**

1. We live in a world where we can see, touch and hear things of this world.
  - a. By empirical knowledge we know they exist.
  - b. Many have very unique touches:
    1. Velvet
    2. Slime
    3. Moss
    4. Slugs
    5. Dog
    6. Cat
    7. Horse
    8. Alligator
2. Empirically we do not know about the spiritual world; however, the Holy Spirit has revealed to us the Will of the Godhead and told us about that eternal realm.
3. We KNOW that life exists after death; we KNOW that Hades exists; we KNOW that Heaven and Hell exist. And we LONG to go to Heaven!

D. (Slide #6) We Are Pilgrims Now But We Are Headed To Our PERMANENT Home!

1. Heb. 11:13 “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”
2. 1 Pet. 1:4 “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”
3. I Pet. 2:11,12 “Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <sup>12</sup>having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”
4. Song: “Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims.”

Verse 1:

“Here we are but straying pilgrims,  
Here our path is often dim.  
But to cheer us on our journey,  
Still we sing this wayside hymn:

*Chorus*

*Yonder over the rolling river,  
Where the shining mansions rise;  
Soon will be our home for ever,  
And the smile of the blessed Giver  
Gladdens all our longing eyes.*

Verse 2:

Here our feet are often weary  
On the hills that throng our way.  
Here the tempest darkly gathers  
But our hearts within us say:

*Chorus*

*Yonder over the rolling river,  
Where the shining mansions rise;  
Soon will be our home for ever,  
And the smile of the blessed Giver  
Gladdens all our longing eyes.*

Verse 3:

Here our souls are often fearful  
Of the pilgrim's lurking foe.  
But the Lord is our defender  
And He tells us we may know:

*Chorus*

*Yonder over the rolling river,  
Where the shining mansions rise;  
Soon will be our home for ever,  
And the smile of the blessed Giver  
Gladdens all our longing eyes."*

Words: I. N. Carman  
Music: W. O. Perkins

- E. **(Slide #7)** We Are Surrounded By Bad Examples But Positively Influenced By Godly Examples.
1. "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. <sup>18</sup>For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: <sup>19</sup>whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things." 17-19
  2. There are MANY enemies of Christ and the Cross around us -- this mind, their thinking, and their focus is upon "earthly things." 19
    - a. Those who oppose Christianity
    - b. Materialists
    - c. Secular people
    - d. False teaching brethren
    - e. The immoral
    - f. Some brethren are enemies of the Lord -- the half-hearted, the hypocritical, the double-minded, and the indifferent!
  3. However, there are those who truly love the Lord!
  4. "Note" is the same word translated in the King James Version "mark" in 1:17 and Rom. 16:17. It means "take note of" or "observe".
  5. Paul encourages Christians to take note of those who walk in faith; be determined to imitate them! Similarly he encouraged the Corinthians to "Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ." I Cor. 11:1

6. It is great to BE an example to others; it is great to HAVE OTHERS as OUR example.
  7. Unfortunately, there are so many who are living like atheists and materialists -- they live for the moment; the “eat, drink, and be merry” and take NO thought of the next hour, next day, next week, next year, or next life (eternity)!
- F. **(Slide #8)** We Are Temporary Citizens Of America But Permanent Citizens Of God’s Kingdom Headed To Our Homeland Heaven!
1. We are Americans and proud to be citizens of this country.
  2. However, as Christians, “our citizenship is in heaven.” 3:20
  3. Christians’ focus is NOT upon the earthly; it is upon the Heavenly!
- G. **(Slide #9)** We Are Living By Faith In Christ Now But We Are Eagerly Looking To Seeing Him Face To Face!
1. Faith is NOT blind speculation; it is confidence built upon evidence!
  2. We KNOW that God exists; we KNOW that Jesus is the Christ; we KNOW that the Holy Spirit is divine; we KNOW that Heaven and Hell exist.
  3. However, we are not able today to experience any of those things empirically.
  4. II Cor. 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
  5. Song: “Face To Face With Christ My Savior!”
  6. Song “What A Day That Will Be When My Jesus I Shall See!”
- H. **(Slide #10)** We Are Living In A Mortal World But We Are Eager To Enter An Immortal World!
1. This world is precious to us because it is all that we have experienced.
  2. However, imagine an immortal world -- there is NO death or decay.
  3. Oh, there is peace or pain; there is solace or suffering!
  4. When we die or when the Lord returns on the Last Day, “this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.” I Cor. 15:53

5. I Jn. 3:2 “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

I. **(Slide #11) We Are Earth-Based But Heaven-Bound!**

1. Yes, this is our place of residence now; but we are not at home while in this world.
2. Our focus, our goal, and our determination is to go to Heaven!
3. There is this tug between the “Here and now” and the “There and then!”
4. Hopefully you enjoy life here; but hopefully you are not SO in love with this life that you have no real hope of Heaven!
5. Hopefully you live for Christ now because you are living for Heaven forever!

II. **(Slide #12) Our Challenge -- “Stand Fast!” 4:1**

A. NEVER Waver In Your Faith!

B. Keep Living For Christ Now!

C. Keep Your Eyes On Jesus, Not On Sin! Keep Your Eyes On Jesus And The End Of The Race!

1. See it to the end!
2. Heb. 12:1,2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

D. Keep Your Eyes On Christ And On Heaven!

## Conclusion:

- A. **(Slide #13)** The Significance And Importance Of Faith In Christ Is Beautifully Expressed By Paul:
  - 1. 3:7,8 “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup>Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”
  - 2. Let NOTHING be more important to you that Jesus!
  
- B. **(Slide #14)** Mt. 6:19,20 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”
  
- C. **(Slide #15)** Understanding All These Things, Christians Can Say With Paul:
  - 1. 1:21 “For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.”
  - 2. 1:23 “For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.”
  
- D. **(Slide #16)** And While Here, We Can Say With Paul:
  - 1. 3:14 “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
  - 2. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
  - 3. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”