

A Nation in Peril (#11) **[Christian Citizenship]**

The Apostle Paul was unique in that he held four citizenships: Romans (Acts 16:37-38); Greek (Acts 21:39; 22:3); Jewish (Acts 24:17-18); and Christian (Phil.3:20-21).

Listen how Paul describes Christian citizenship:

(Phil.3:20-21) “For our **citizenship** (to politeuma / nsm) **is** (huparcho / p.a.ind.3ps) [preexistence] (Phil.2:6) **in** (en+loc of place) **heaven** (ouranos / lplm) [**plural**], **from** (ek+abl.of source) **which** (hos / relative pronoun / abl.sm) [**singular**] **also** we eagerly wait (apekdechomai / p.m.ind.1pl) for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform (metaschematizo / f.a.ind.3ps) the body of our humble stat into conformity with the body His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Christian Citizenship and how to apply it to A Nation in Peril.

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is a citizen of at least two countries: national and heavenly.

1. A person becomes a citizen of heaven by being “born from above.”

(John 3:3) “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** (ean / 3cc / me [negative conjunction] protasis.) **one is born** (gennao / a.p.subj.3ps) **again** (anothen / adv./ above), he cannot (dunamai ouk / p.a.ind.3ps) see (horao / a.a.infin) (Eph.1:18) the kingdom of God (apodosis) [conclusion]” (Jn.3:7; Matt.18:3-5; 1 Cor.15:50)

Nicodemus understood the biblical concept of the kingdom of God but did not understand the truth regarding how to get into it. Entering was outside the natural and earthly realms (Rom.9:6-8) (Jn.1:11-13).

You become a citizen of heaven by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor.15:1-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Jn.3:16; 10:28-30).

As a citizen of heaven, a believer’s name is registered permanently in the Lamb’s book of eternal life (Phil.4:3; Rev.3:5; 20:15; Heb.12:22-24).

2. Christian citizenship is one of 50 things every CAB receives in the package of grace salvation that can never be lost in time or eternity (See “50 Things Free” at www.doctrinalstudies.com).

“For our citizenship is (huparcho / p.a.ind) [preexistence].) in heaven.” (Phil.3:20a)

“Paul in Phil.3:20 means that Christians with the citizenship and culture of heaven are in unfriendly territory which will not change, by cultural evolution. On the contrary, Christians will be rescued from it (verse 21).” (Renaissance NTY, vol.14, pg.489)

3. The CAB’s citizenship in heaven is based on positional sanctification.

(2 Thess.2:13) “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”

Christian citizenship is 1 of 20 status privileges of the package of salvation. (Acts 26:18). (See “50 Things Free” at www.doctrinalstudies.com)

(1 Cor.6:11) “And such were some of you, but you were washed, but **you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:26-27)

4. Christian citizenship is based on Jesus Christ’s kingship of His kingdom.

(1 Tim.1:17) “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Tim.6:15-16)

Gabriel announced it to Mary:

(Lk.1:26-38) “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.” (Lk.1:32-33)

Magi from the East announced it to Herod:

(Matt.2:1-12) “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.”

Jesus was unsuccessful in getting Israel to believe the Kingdom of God was present because the King of Israel had come.

(Lk.17:20-21) “Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look here it is!’ For **behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.**”

(Col.1:13-14) “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 26:18)

(Matt.6:33) “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you.”

5. As a citizen of heaven, we are aliens and strangers on earth.

(1 Pet.2:11) “Beloved, I urge you as aliens (paroikos/ sojourn) and strangers (parepidemos/ pilgrim) to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.”

As unsaved, we were stranger and aliens of heaven:

(Eph.2:19) “So then you are **no longer** strangers (xenos / n.pl.m) and aliens (paroikos / n.pl.m), but you are **fellow citizens** (sumpolites / n.pl.m) **with the saints**, and are of God’s household”. (Gal.6:10)

(Heb.11:13-16) “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers (xenos) and exiles (parepidemos) on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.” (2 Tim.4:18)

POINT: “Live for the Lord without compromise when compromise is the norm and standard of a nation in peril.” Jeremiah was an example of this doctrinal point (Jer.18:18) Parable of Potter House, the sovereignty of God and His messenger.