

Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 1:1-11 / 09-29-19 / Paul Sommerfeld

GETTING STARTED

What brings you the most happiness in life? Why?

OVERVIEW

We all have a physical address but we may not be aware we also have a spiritual address: we are citizens of heaven. This means that we are found “in Christ” and bound in love with those around us in the church. This also means that we can have extravagant joy that is found *in Christ* rather than in our circumstances and we can partner in gospel ministry with our church community.

DIG DEEPER

1. What impacted you most from the sermon this week?
2. **Read Philippians 1:3-8:** What key words describe Paul’s relationship to the church here?
 - Why does Paul have this type of relationship with the church?
 - What people in your life do you have a similar relationship with? *Why?*
 - What ways does this passage suggest you can develop these relationships?
3. **Read Philippians 1:9-11:** What are the key elements of Paul’s prayer here?
 - Which of the things Paul prays for do you need to grow in most? *Why?*
 - How can Paul’s prayer teach you how to pray better for others?
4. How does this passage (**1:1-11**) relate to the theme of “extravagant joy” in Philippians?
5. What is the difference between *joy* and *happiness*? How does it show up in this passage?

APPLY

6. If you assess yourself honestly, where are you spiritually?
 - Where would you like to be? How do you think you get there?
7. What does it mean for you to live with joy as a citizen of heaven *this week*?
8. Who brings you joy every time you think of them? *Why?*
 - Who do you consider a “partner in the gospel”? *Why?*
 - What practical things can you do to seek out and encourage relationships within the church that bring people joy and promote partnership in the gospel?
9. Spend some time praying Paul’s prayer in **Philippians 1:9-11** for people in your church.