

Citizens of Heaven

Introduction:

It is a tremendous blessing to be a citizen of a great nation.

Paul knew the blessings of being a citizen of the Roman empire.

- A. Paul knew the blessing of being under the protection of Roman law.

Acts 22:25 (NASB) And when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?"

- B. The Roman law protected the Roman citizens.

Acts 22:26 (NASB) And when the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman."

- C. Paul knew the blessing of being a Roman citizen personally.

Acts 22:27 (NASB) And the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" And he said, "Yes."

- D. The blessing of being a Roman citizen was worthy of a great deal of money.

Acts 22:28 (NASB) And the commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen."

- E. Paul knew the blessing of being a Roman citizen though he did not have to pay for that privilege

Acts 22:28 (NASB) And the commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen."

- F. Paul as a citizen of Rome, experienced the protection that came as a result of being a member of so mighty an empire.

Acts 22:29 (NASB) Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he

found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

- G. Those who opposed a Roman citizen feared the power of Rome.

Acts 22:29 (NASB) Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

Theme: There are many blessings associated with being citizens of heaven.

- II. We, as believers, are citizens of heaven.

Phil 3:20 (NASB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

- III. Heaven is the domain over which Christ rules.

Phil 3:20 (NASB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

- IV. As the citizens of heaven we experience Christ's rule and protection.

Phil 3:20 (NASB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

- V. That rule and protection includes our transformation from the issues associated with this life.

Phil 3:21 (NASB) 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.

- VI. The rule of Christ in heaven is an extensive rule over all created things.

Phil 3:21 (NASB) 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.

- VII. Being a citizen of heaven provides us with great encouragement for the here and now.

Phil 4:1 (NASB) Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.