

HEAVENLY EXPECTATIONS

The EXPECTATION of pursuing Christ - Philipians 3:20-21

Introduction

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 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.

#1 Our H _____ is Heaven

20a For our citizenship is in heaven

Acts 16:35 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out." 38 The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, 39 and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

2 Corinthians 5:8 ... to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

#2 Our H _____ is a Savior

20b from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,

1 Corinthians 1:7 you are...awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

#3 Our H _____ is a new Body

21a *who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory*

1 John 3:2 *we will be like HIM...*

Hebrews 12:23 *the spirits of the righteous made perfect*

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

Daniel 12:2

Revelation 20:4

...in place of an earthly body that is always characterized by physical decay, indignity, and weakness, the resurrected believer will have a heavenly body that is incapable of deterioration, beautiful in form and appearance, and with limitless energy and perfect health. Once he experiences a resurrection transformation, man will know perennial rejuvenation, since he will have a perfect vehicle for God's deathless Spirit, a body that is invariably responsive to his transformed personality.

#4 HIS HEAVENLY _____ to make it all happen

21b *by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself*

Jeremiah 32:17 *Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You*

Matthew 19:26 *With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*

1 Corinthians 15:27 *For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, All things are put in subjection, it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.*

A - Stop loving this _____

B - Start loving _____

Colossians 3:1 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

C - Stay loving _____

QUESTIONS

1. Has your passion for your first love, Jesus Christ, turned into a stale fact?
2. How do we guard our hearts from becoming complacent?
3. In what ways are you pursuing Christ?
4. Look over Philippians 3. As you read, write down specific ways you can pursue Christ.
5. What are some practical ways we can live in the world but not focus on earthly things?
6. When you think about Heaven, what thoughts come to your mind?
7. If someone asked you to describe Heaven, what would you say?
8. What about Heaven most excites you?
9. Are you eagerly waiting for Christ? If not, what might be distracting you?
10. How is biblical hope different than earthly hope? What difference should biblical hope make in our lives?
11. Read Jeremiah 32:17 and Matthew 19:26. Meditate on the greatness of our God in these passages.
12. How can we at FBC mutually encourage one another to stop loving the world and start longing for Heaven?
13. Spend time this week remembering what Christ did for you, what Christ is doing for you currently, and what Christ will do for you in the future.
14. If you love Christ, do you see these four qualities in your life: following, obeying, pursuing, and growing?

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