<u>**Citizenship**</u>

Where is your citizenship? You are probably a citizen of the United States of America. There are great benefits being an American citizen.

If you asked the Apostle Paul, he would tell you that he was a citizen of Rome. He found it to be quite beneficial when he was about to suffer a whipping for preaching the gospel. It's recorded in the book of Acts:

Acts 22:25 *But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?" (ESV)*

Those who had tied him down quickly untied him. Paul's citizenship saved his life. But there was far more important citizenship that Paul had, a citizenship that you also have. Look at what Paul wrote in the book of Philippians.

Philippians 3:20-21 [20] *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,* [21] *who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)*

Look at the benefits of being a citizen of heaven:

We have a Savior in Jesus Christ. Jesus has saved us from our sins and from eternity in hell. Heaven is our home.

Our weak, earthly bodies will be transformed to be like Christ's glorious body. When we get to heaven our bodies will be able to do the things Jesus did after He rose from the dead.

We will also be in subject to Jesus. I think this means that Jesus will empower us to live out the life that God wants us to. If you struggle with temptation and sin like I do, this is great news.

I'm happy to be a citizen of the United States, but it means little compared to being a citizen of heaven. If you are not a citizen of heaven, put your life in the hands of God. Let heaven be your home. If you are a Christian, live like heaven is your home, because it is.

In Him and for His glory,

Pastor Matt