

# ***Our Citizenship in Heaven***

***International Bible Lesson***

**Philippians 3:12-4:1**

**Sunday, January 27, 2013**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20—KJV).*

*“We, however, are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven” (Philippians 3:20—GNB).*

*“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20—NRSV).*

Millions of people from almost every nation have the opportunity to study the Bible in their own language. In some nations, the followers of Jesus Christ can worship God openly wherever they choose, freely invite others to study the Bible with them, and share the good news about Jesus at any time and place. In other nations, the followers of Jesus Christ face restrictions on how and where they can express their faith in God. They find their freedoms to express their faith in public constantly under attack from unbelievers. What the majority agreed they could do in the past, the minority has found a way to outlaw for the present. In the most restrictive nations, those who worship the God of the Bible gather in secret and risk imprisonment or death for their faith. Their leaders forbid them to carry or read their Bibles in public or tell anyone the good news about Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

Happily, those in every nation who trust in Jesus Christ enjoy a common citizenship in heaven now. As citizens of heaven, they share the same privileges and responsibilities. Even on Earth, they bow before the same King, their “Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,” and they know that Jesus Christ unites all of His citizens in love. They believe God’s promises and expect their King to return to Earth someday and make all things right. The Bible teaches that everything on Earth will be different in the future. Jesus will come and transform the bodies of His followers and they will rejoice under His kingship in a new heaven and earth.— Copyright 2013 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. What does this mean to you, “Christ Jesus has made me his own”?

2. What benefits does a follower of Jesus Christ enjoy because Jesus Christ has made them his own?

3. How difficult is it today for Christians or church members to say, “Do as I do and do as I say, because I imitate Jesus Christ”? Give a reason for your answer.

4. What can happen to a person who says they believe in God and Jesus, and who wear a cross around their neck on a chain, but who set their minds on earthly things?

5. What do you need to do to live each day as a person who knows that their citizenship is in heaven?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the [BibleLessonForum.com](http://BibleLessonForum.com). See the recommended study and worship resources at [SmallChurchResources.com](http://SmallChurchResources.com).