





OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN

# *HEAVEN*

Philippians 3:20

# The Power and Appeal of Citizenship

*“But our citizenship is in heaven...”* (Phil. 3:20)

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal. 3:28)

*“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”* (Eph. 2:19)

- Would have brought to mind the **rights** of citizenship
- Would have brought to mind the **responsibilities** of citizenship
- Would have brought to mind the **rewards** of citizenship



As Lights in a Dark World

Philippians 2:15-16

# As Lights

## Illuminate the Path of Life

- **Your light leads to His glory (Matt. 5:14-16)**
  - *“they may see your good deeds and glorify God” (1 Pet. 2:12)*
- **Light in, Light out**
  - *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105)*
  - We’re *“holding fast to the word of life”* to “reflect” the Light of life (2 Cor. 4:6)
- **Our conduct can help convert others (1 Pet 3:1-4)**
  - *“when they see your respectful and pure conduct”*
  - What do others see from how we dress our bodies?
  - What we really want them to see is how we dress our hearts
    - **Modesty is an issue of the heart, not a debate about the hemline...**

# Be Salt

## An Influence that Preserves

- **In ancient times, salt was a highly valuable commodity**
  - Our English word “*salary*” is derived from the Latin root word “*sal*” for salt
- ***“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet” (Matt 5:13)***
  - Salt adds a distinct flavor and is intended to prevent corruption
  - Disciples are meant to serve the same purpose in the world
  - Are we different? Are we making a difference?
  - *“The most useless and contemptible person is a Christian who merely wears a name which he disgraces by his faithless and indifferent life”*

- Orrin Root

# Like Letters

## Known and Read by Men

- **Think of yourself as a living breathing epistle (2 Cor. 3:1-3)**
  - The epistles were written so that people could “*read and know*” (Eph. 3:4)
  - What is written in our hearts comes out in our words and actions (Mt. 15:18-20)
- **Their letter showed Christ through hearts filled with the Spirit**
- **What does our letter show?**
  - Does our letter devalue Christ to the world by showing that being in Christ really hasn't made much difference in my life?
  - Does our letter give false hope to our friends who are religious, but have not obeyed “*the word of the truth of the gospel*”?
- **We are the world's bible...**

# Shine

**We live in a crooked and twisted world**

**But we have come out of darkness and into His marvelous light**

**Kingdom citizens have the responsibility to show others the Light**

**We show them His light by shining our light**



The World Is a Dark Place

A person stands in a dark field at night, holding a flashlight that illuminates the ground and casts a beam of light. The background is dark with silhouettes of trees.

# The World Is a Dark Place

## Turn Your Light On

Philippians 2:15-16

