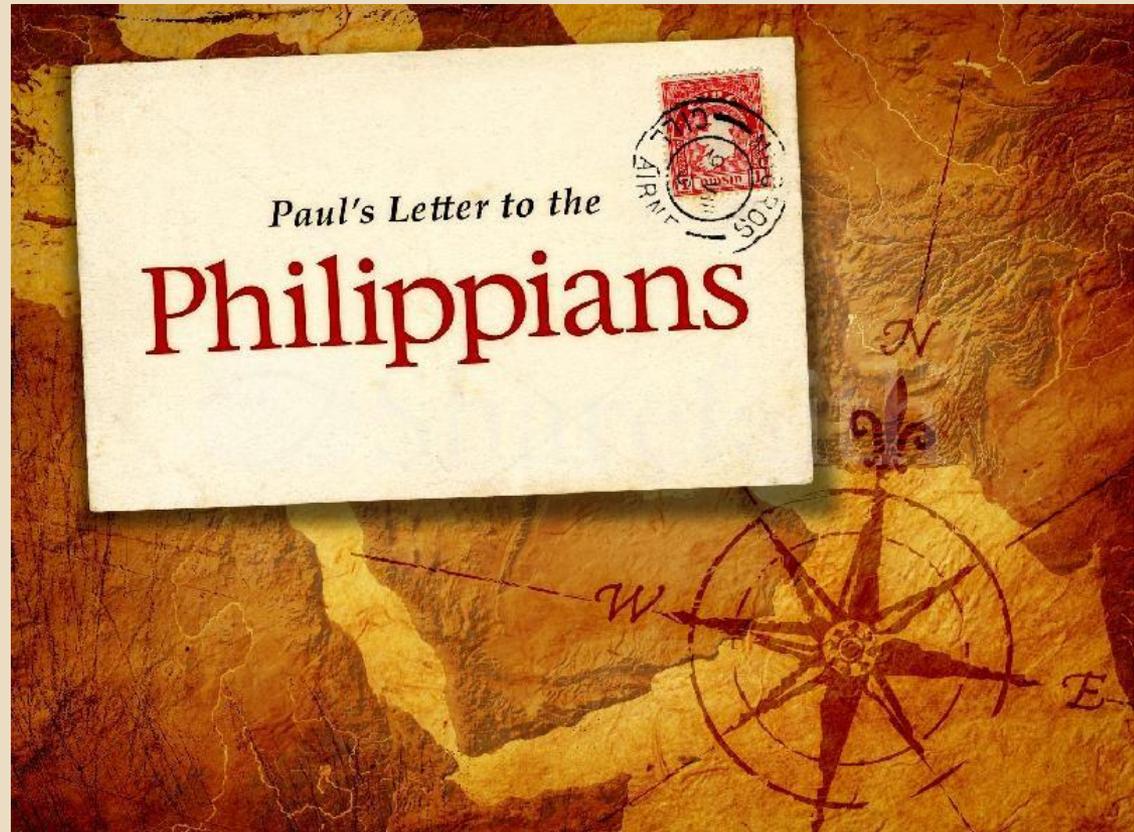
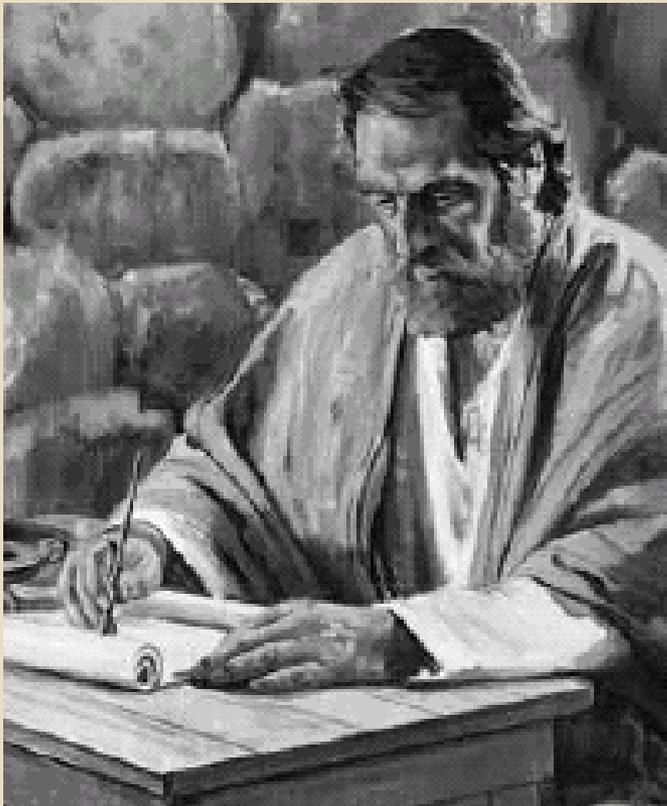


MESSAGE #4

“THE CORPORATE IDENTITY
VITAL FOR STRIVING AHEAD”

(Philippians 3:20-21)

Our Retreat Passage is Philippians 3:13-14
Our Focus for Exposition Purposes is on the
Entire Chapter of Philippians 3
(Read Chapter 3 To Prepare)





Review:

Striving ahead in the Christian life involves:

- (1) First, an atonement worldview
- (2) Second, a counteracting joy

A third one to add this morning . . .

Striving ahead in the Christian life involves:

(3) Third, *a corporate identity in Christ*

Philippians 3:20-21

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.



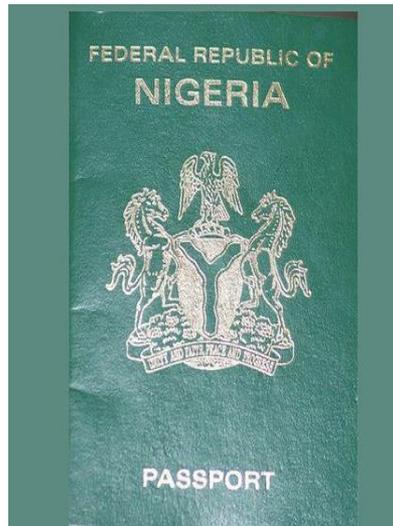
v.20 “citizenship” = the Greek word *politeuma*

Colossians 1:13

“He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

1 Peter 2:10

“For you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God.”

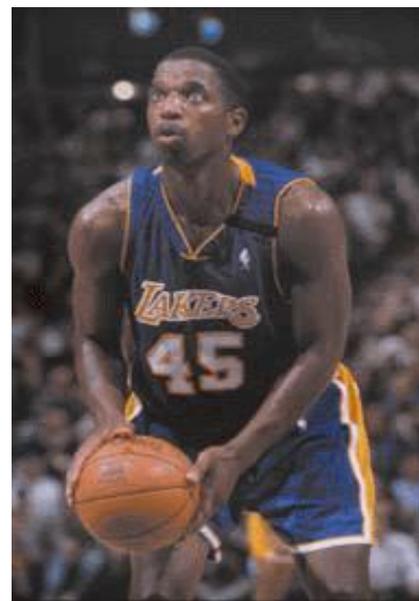




Three practical ways our corporate identity as citizens of heaven helps us strive ahead in our Christian life.

1st Way:

It gives you an identity to live differently.



2nd Way:

It stirs your heart to long for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21

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.

Colossians 3:2-4

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

I John 3:2-3

² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Hebrews 11:9-10 and 13

“By faith [Abraham] made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country . . . For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God . . . All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.”



3rd Way:

It beckons you to the safe alternative community of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Thousands of Czechs in central Prague shout down their communist rulers in the non-violent "Velvet Revolution" of 1989





To strive for what's ahead in the Christian life, you need to embrace your corporate identity in Christ as citizens of a heavenly kingdom because:

- (1) It gives you an identity to live differently in Christ*
- (2) It stirs your heart to long for the coming of Jesus Christ*
- (3) It beckons you to the safe alternative community of Jesus Christ*