

Heavenly Citizenship: High Definition Living

Feb. 2009, TV is going digital. Better picture, better everything, but you've got to get a converter box. You can't keep on in the same old low definition style when the only option is HD. When you get High Definition, can see things you couldn't see before. The picture gets clearer.

Here is an illustration of how God wishes to change our lives.

A lot of the world lives in low definition. They do not know it. They have had the same picture for so long that they think it is good.

They are naturally resistant to any change. They don't want a converter box. They want things to stay the way they are.

This is true of people who live in the world by the values of the world.

It is also true of people down at the church house. It is true of us more often than we would like to admit.

We are LD people in a HD spiritual world. We do not appreciate our heavenly citizenship.

Introduction

Heavenly citizenship introduced—is more about responsibilities than rights, 1:27-30.

Heavenly citizenship—means following the servant attitude of Christ, 2:1-18

Heavenly citizenship—modeled in the examples of Timothy and Ephaphroditus, 2:19-30

Heavenly citizenship—the expanded description Paul gives, 3:1-4:1

Citizenship is a great privilege. How special—mission trips, touch down on US soil. Text affirms that we are currently citizens of the heavenly kingdom. What does that mean?

Some have understood it to mean that we must cautiously avoid any appearance of the contemporary culture. But we maintain dual citizenship, in the world but not of the world. We are ambassadors, 2 Cor. 5:17.

Our citizenship directs our lives, priorities and relationships.

Our eternal heavenly citizenship has changed our lives, our priorities, and relationships

How to live a HD life in a LD world.

My life has been forever changed. How? Changing my life....

1 The HD life focuses on Christ more than things (stuff), 3:3-11

I recognize the value of knowing Christ and imitating him, so I can experience the resurrection from the dead (spiritual and physical).

Goal = to know Christ

Acknowledging our weakness

All I really need to know I learned

Losing everything to gain that which is most valuable

2 The HD life emphasizes the future more than the past, 3:12-16

I admit my own spiritual weaknesses and inadequacies, so I can depend on God as the source of ministry.

Goal = to press on to attain, then live up to what we have attained

Striving toward a worthy goal

Forgetting everything to remember that which is most important

3 The HD life lets you think more about heavenly things than earthly things, 3:17-21

I take note of and honor the lives of faithful servants. I follow their example so I can learn the lesson of thinking on heavenly things.

Goal=transformed lives

Go for broke.

Changing everything to become that which is most lasting.

Conclusion

I'll tell you who was the first person to live a HD life—2000 years before the terminology became current. Focused living—prayerful communication with God, servant heart, giving even his life.

My goal is to be like Jesus, 3:20-21

I eagerly await Jesus' coming and God's ultimate control, so I can be like him.

Does any man know what the Spirit of God can make of him? I believe the greatest, ablest, most faithful, most holy man of God might have been greater, and abler, and more faithful, and more holy, if he had put himself more completely at the Spirit's disposal. Wherever God has done great things by a man, he has had power to do more had the man been fit for it. We are straitened in ourselves, not in God. O brothers, the church is weak today because the Holy Spirit is not upon her members as we could desire him to be. You and I are tottering along like feeble babes, whereas, had we more of the Spirit, we might walk without fainting, run without weariness, and even mount up with wings as eagles. Oh, for more of the anointing of the Spirit whom Christ is prepared to give immeasurably unto us if we will but receive him!