

Heavenly Citizenship: High Definition Living By Bob Young

TV has gone digital—better picture, better everything, but I must have a box. I cannot keep on in the same old low definition style when the only option is HD. When you get HD, you can see things you could not see before. The picture gets clearer. This 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/we are naturally resistant to any change. We do not want a converter box. We want things to stay the way they are. This is true of people who live in the world by the values of the world; this is true of us in the church. 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

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.

Think we me about Philippians, how we could understand the book using this framework.

- 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—is modeled in the examples of Timothy and Ephaphroditus, 2:19-30
- Heavenly citizenship—Paul gives an expanded description, 3:1-4:1

We will limit ourselves to the last point, Paul's description of HD living, heavenly citizenship.

How to live a HD life in a LD world: my life has been forever changed. How is such change possible....

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

I want to know Christ and imitate him, so I can experience the resurrection from the dead (spiritual and physical).

The ultimate goal is to know Christ

- Acknowledging our weakness
- All I really need to know I learned from Christ
- 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; thus I can depend on God as the source of ministry.

My goal is to press on to attain, then live up to what we have attain

- 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 to learn how to think about heavenly things.

Goal is transformed lives: changing everything to share in that which is most lasting.

Conclusion

The first person to live a HD life—2000 years before the terminology became current. Jesus models 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.