

## Citizens of Heaven

From Facts About Heaven.

## Citizenship in Heaven

- Philippians 3:20 NAS95 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

### INITIAL THOUGHTS

- Our spiritual citizenship is in heaven
- The “raised with Christ” refers to being raised from a baptism.
  - I see the word “IF”, but is it the same as “since” in the greek. Must check.
- A repentant, confessing, baptized believer must serve his country while on earth (Romans 13), but remember that his primary direction is not horizontal, but vertical – Heaven (above).
  - That is where the most important things are – our treasures
    - Matt ????
  - We should be seeking things above.
    - That is where Jesus is
    - That is where Jesus is at God’s right hand.
- I should be setting / “fixing” our minds on the most important things – eternal things – that are in heaven
- We should NOT be setting / “fixing” our minds on the things of this earth – temporary things – things that rust, moth eaten, and decay.

### RESEARCH COMMENTARIES

- TSK Cross References in NASB95
  - Phil 3.20
    - Proverbs 15:24 The path of life leads **upward for the wise** That he may keep away from Sheol below.
    - 2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV as we look not to the things that are seen **but to the things that are unseen**. For the things that are seen are transient, but **the things that are unseen are eternal**.

- 2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household.
- Hebrews 10:34-35 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. (35) Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.
- 1 Peter 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 2 Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- Hebrews 11:13-16 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (14) For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. (15) And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

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- RWP

- Our citizenship (hēmōn to politeuma). Old word from piliteuō (Php\_1:27), but only here in N.T. The inscriptions use it either for citizenship or for commonwealth. Paul was proud of his Roman citizenship and found it a protection. The Philippians were also proud of their Roman citizenship. But Christians are citizens of a kingdom not of this world (Joh\_18:36). Milligan (Vocabulary) doubts if commentators are entitled to translate it here: **“We are a colony of heaven,”** because such a translation reverses the relation between the colony and the mother city. But certainly here Paul’s heart is in heaven.
- We wait for (apekdechometha). Rare and late double compound (perfective use of prepositions like wait out) which vividly pictures Paul’s eagerness for the second coming of Christ as the normal attitude of the Christian colonist whose home is heaven.

- Vincent Word Studies

- Conversation (παλίτευμα)

- Only here in the New Testament. Rev., citizenship, commonwealth in margin. The rendering conversation, in the sense of manner of life (see on 1Pe\_1:15), has no sufficient warrant; and that πολίτευμα commonwealth, is used interchangeably with πολιτεία citizenship, is not beyond question. Commonwealth gives a good and consistent sense. The state of which we are citizens is in heaven. See on Php\_1:27. Compare Plato: ...
    - Is in heaven (ὕπαρχει)
    - The use of this word instead of ἐστὶ is is peculiar. See on being, Php\_2:6. It has a backward look. It exists now in heaven, having been established there of old. Compare Heb\_11:16; Joh\_14:2.

- J-F-B

- our conversation — rather, “our state” or “country”; our citizenship: our life as citizens. We are but pilgrims on earth; how then should we “mind earthly things?” (Php\_3:19; Heb\_11:9, Heb\_11:10, Heb\_11:13-16). Roman citizenship was then highly prized; how much more should the heavenly citizenship (Act\_22:28; compare Luk\_10:20)?
  - is — Greek, “has its existence.”
  - in heaven — Greek, “in the heavens.”
  - look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ — “We wait for (so the same Greek is translated, Rom\_8:19) the Lord Jesus as a (that is, in the capacity of a) Savior” (Heb\_9:28). That He is “the Lord,” now exalted above every name, assures our expectation (Php\_2:9-11). Our High Priest is gone up into the Holy of Holies not made with hands, there to atone for us; and as the Israelites stood outside the tabernacle, expecting Aaron’s return (compare Luk\_1:21), so must we look unto the heavens expecting Christ thence.

- Sermon Bible

- Philippians 3:19-20
  - I. Others, says St. Paul, have their mind set upon things below; appetite is their god; they make the Gospel itself a means of worldly gain; what they pride themselves upon is just what a Christian should be ashamed of; and the end of these things is death. When the world perishes, its children and its subjects must perish too. But we are not of the world. Already, even in this life, our citizenship is in heaven; and thither is our eye ever turned, in expectation of His coming who is even now our King, and shall one day be our Deliverer and our Saviour too.
  - II. If anything for a moment shows us to ourselves as we are, stripping off the disguise by which we commonly impose not upon others only, but also upon ourselves, does anything strike us so painfully as this one conviction?—that we are

predominantly earthly-minded; that, whatever else we may be or may not be, we have things on the earth for our thought and for our feeling. There is a quietude and a self-complacency in worldly success which puts us, as it were, in good humour with both worlds: with God above and man below. But take one world away, and what has become of the other? It is a mistake to suppose that affliction, in any form, drives men to God. It may in time, with pain and prayer and many struggles, make the heavenly-minded man more heavenly-minded; but it might almost be said to have an opposite effect upon the godless and the earthly-minded, at once showing him his state and fixing that state upon him. Depend upon it, he, and he only, who has a country above will ever sit loose to interests below; and if he would ever escape the terrible condemnation of having minded earthly things, it must be because God, in His infinite mercy, has given us the comfort and joy of being able to say from the heart, My home is not here; my citizenship is in heaven.

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- Philippians 3:20
- Heaven the Christian's Home.
- I. "Our conversation is in heaven." Many are the meanings of this word, and every way the Apostle says we are in heaven. For the word, in the language in which God wrote it, means the city or state to which we belong, or citizenship, or the rules and order of a state by which it is governed, or the way of life of the citizens; and in all these ways he places us in heaven. Our home is in heaven. Yet so it might be, so in one sense it is, though we were away from home. For, as the Apostle says, "while we are present in the body, we are absent from the Lord." ...
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- Our Heavenly Citizenship.
- I. There are only three ways on record by which any man ever became a citizen of any state;...1) For, first, we were made citizens by purchase. He who was the King of that beautiful city did actually give up for a season His kingdom, and He was content to become a stranger here, and to forfeit all His dignities, and to be human enough to die and to be buried, that He might by that absence and death buy an admission for you and me to that heavenly city. (2) And, in addition to this purchase by the blood of Christ, it was free for us to take as a gift. (3) And because birth is better than purchase or gift, therefore by the same grace we are born again, that we should change the place of our nativity and have our settlement no longer in a slavish world, but be born free; and this admission by birth is that which lies in the text: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- II. Look, next, at the privileges of citizenship. (1) It is the first privilege of every citizen that he is represented. Accordingly it is the plan of God's great government that every one who belongs to His Church is represented. Christ is gone into

heaven for this purpose, and there at God's right hand He stands. (2). **And the right of a citizen is that he is under the laws of his own state, and no other;** he may appeal up to this. The Christian is continually appealing to a grander award than that of this world. (3) **The citizen can go in and out.** Is he not free of his own state? But it is a holy liberty. There is the same God to all there in the city; He is very near. (4) **It is the right or privilege of all citizens to go to the presence of the King.** Whatever be their petitions, the access is open. We carry in our hands a white stone, with a new name written; we command entrance by that stone, the proof of our union with Christ. We are His people, and His whole empire is pledged to us; and we may be in that royal presence night and day, and enjoy such elevation and such converse and partake of such favours as it passeth the natural eye to see: "but God has revealed them to us by His Spirit."

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○ Christian Citizenship.

○ I. Consider, first, the source of Christian citizenship. At the time these words were written, the Roman empire had attained the culmination of its power. The long clamour of battle was hushed in the reign of Augustus. The Emperor seemed to reign over a consolidated and prosperous empire; and through each subject province or far-off archipelago of isles the man who could say, "I am a Roman citizen," found in the words the surest talisman of safety or the speediest redress for wrong. **The source of our heavenly citizenship is not, as in the Roman, by birth or by servitude; it can only be by redemption, purchased for us by One who loves us, who can pay the satisfying price, and can exert the needed power;** and this is the marvel of love which has really been wrought on our behalf.

● B.W. Johnson

○ For our conversation is in heaven. Our citizenship. See Revision. **We are citizens of heaven itself, our country, from which we are now absent, and which we are seeking. Hence we ought to mind heavenly things. There our Lord dwells, and from thence he will come.**

● F.B. Meyer

○ **We are citizens of the skies, who come forth to spend a few hours each day on earth. This is our inn, yonder is our true home.**

● M.H.C.C.

○ **The life of a Christian is in heaven, where his Head and his home are, and where he hopes to be shortly; he sets his affections upon things above; and where his heart is, there will his conversation be.**

● Preacher's Homiletical

○ Php\_3:20. For our conversation is in heaven.—"Our" is emphatic, contrasting with the "earthly things" just named.... **Our hearts are with our treasure, and that is far**

away from earthly things. ... The word for “conversation” means “the commonwealth,” “the general assembly and Church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” (Heb\_12:23). From whence also we look for the Saviour.— From that heaven, “whither the Forerunner is for us entered,” “He shall come in like manner.” Meanwhile we stand in readiness to receive Him. The word for “look for” (R.V. “wait for”) graphically depicts the attitude of waiting.

- Pulpit

- For our conversation is in heaven. The word "our" is emphatic; the apostle refers back to **Php\_3:17 : "Follow us, not those enemies of the cross; our conversation is in heaven; they mind earthly things."** The A.V. has this same word "conversation" in **Php\_1:27**, where the Greek (πολιτεύεσθε) is the verb corresponding with the noun (πολιτεῦμα) which occurs here. **The verb is used in the sense of a certain mode of life** or conversation, as in **Act\_23:1**, but it does not appear that the noun ever bears that meaning. The rendering "citizenship" also seems deficient in authority. In classical Greek the word has three meanings:
  - (1) a form of government;
  - (2) political acts, politics;
  - (3) a commonwealth.
- **The last seems the most suitable here.** The unworthy Christians mentioned in the last verse mind earthly things; **but our city, our country, our home, is in heaven:** there is the state of which we are citizens; **there is the general assembly and Church of the Firstborn, whose names are inscribed in the roll of the citizens of the heavenly city.** **Our real home is there now (ὑπάρχει); comp. Eph\_2:19, "Ye are no longer strangers and foreigners, but ye are fellow-citizens of the saints"** (comp. also Heb\_11:10, Heb\_11:16 and Heb\_13:14; Gal\_4:26). From whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; rather, we eagerly wait for (comp. Rom\_8:23, Rom\_8:25; Gal\_5:5) the Lord Jesus Christ as a Savior; comp. Isa\_25:9, "This is the Lord; we have waited for him; we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

- Albert Barnes

- Philippians 3:20
- For our conversation is in heaven - .... The word “conversation” we now apply almost entirely to oral discourse. It formerly, however, meant conduct in general, and it is usually employed in this sense in the Scriptures; see the notes at **Php\_1:27**, where the verb occurs, from which the noun here is derived. The word used here - πολιτεῦμα politeuma - is found nowhere else in the New Testament. It properly means, any public measure, administration of the state, the manner in which the affairs of a state are administered; and then the state itself, the community, commonwealth, those who are bound under the same laws, and associated in the

same society. ... but the idea is, that they were heavenly citizens, or citizens of the heavenly world, in contradistinction from a worldly community, They were governed by the laws of heaven; they were a community associated as citizens of that world, and expecting there to dwell.

- The idea is, that there are two great communities in the universe - that of the world, and that of heaven: that governed by worldly laws and institutions, and that by the laws of heaven; that associated for worldly purposes, and that associated for heavenly or religious purposes; and that the Christian belonged to the latter - the enemy of the cross, though in the church, belonged to the former. Between true Christians, therefore, and others, there is all the difference which arises from belonging to different communities; being bound together for different purposes; subject to different laws; and altogether under a different administration. There is more difference between them than there is between the subjects of two earthly governments; compare Eph\_2:6, note 19, note.
- From whence also we look for the Saviour - From heaven. That is, it is one of the characteristics of the Christian that he believes that the Lord Jesus will return from heaven, and that he looks and waits for it. Other men do not believe this 2Pe\_3:4, but the Christian confidently expects it. His Saviour has been taken away from the earth, and is now in heaven, but it is a great and standing article of his faith that that same Saviour will again come, and take the believer to himself; see the Joh\_14:2-3, note; 1Th\_4:1, note. This was the firm belief of the early Christians, and this expectation with them was allowed to exert a constant influence on their hearts and lives. It led them:
  - (1) To desire to be prepared for his coming;
  - (2) To feel that earthly affairs were of little importance, as the scene here was soon to close;
  - (3) To live above the world, and in the desire of the appearing of the Lord Jesus.
- This was one of the elementary doctrines of their faith, and one of the means of producing deadness to the world among them; and among the early Christians there was, perhaps, no doctrine that was more the object of firm belief, and the ground of more delightful contemplation, than that their ascended Master would return. In regard to the certainty of their belief on this point, and the effect which it had on their minds, see the following texts of the New Testament; Mat\_24:42, Mat\_24:44; Luk\_12:37; Joh\_14:3; Act\_1:11; 1Co\_4:5; Col\_3:4; 1Th\_2:19; 2Th\_2:1; Heb\_10:37; Jas\_5:7-8; 1Jn\_3:2; Rev\_22:7, Rev\_22:12, Rev\_22:20. It may be asked, with great force, whether Christians in general have now any such expectation of the second appearing of the Lord Jesus, or whether they have not

fallen into the dangerous error of prevailing unbelief, so that the expectation of his coming is allowed to exert almost no influence on the soul.

- In the passage before us, Paul says that it was **one of the distinct characteristics of Christians that they looked for the coming of the Saviour from heaven.** They believed that he would return. They anticipated that important effects would follow to them from his second coming. So we should look. There may be, indeed, a difference of opinion about the time when he will come, and about the question whether he will come to reign “literally, on the earth - but the fact that Christ will return to our world is common ground on which all Christians may meet, and is a fact which should be allowed to exert its full influence on the heart. ...

- Adam Clark

- Our conversation is in heaven - Ἡμῶς - το πολίτευμα: **Our city, or citizenship, or civil rights.** The word properly signifies the administration, government, or form of a republic or state; and is thus used by Demosthenes, page 107, 25, and 262, 27. Edit. Reiske....
- While those gross and Jewish teachers have no city but what is on earth; no rights but what are derived from their secular connections; no society but what is made up of men like themselves, who mind earthly things, and whose belly is their god, We have a heavenly city, ... **we have rights and privileges which are heavenly and eternal; and our society or fellowship is with God the Father, Son, and Spirit, the spirits of just men made perfect, and the whole Church of the first-born.** We have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts; and regard not the body, which we know must perish, but which we confidently expect shall be raised from death and corruption into a state of immortal glory.

- Expositor's Bible

- Philippians 3:20-21
- OUR CITY AND OUR COMING KING.
- **"Our citizenship is in heaven."** The word here used (Php\_1:27) means the **constitution or manner of life of a state or city.** All men draw much from the spirit and laws of the commonwealth to which they belong; ... Now in the heavenly kingdom, which had claimed them and had opened to them through Christ, **the believers had found their own city; and finding it, had become, comparatively, strangers in every other.**
- A way of thinking and acting prevails throughout the world, as if earth and its interests were the whole sphere of man; and being pervaded by this spirit, the whole world may be said to be a commonwealth with a spirit and with maxims of its own. We, who live in it, feel it natural to comply with the drift of things in this respect, and difficult to stand against it; so that separation and singularity seem unreasonable and hard. ... **This commonwealth has its seat in heaven; for there it**



reveals its nature, and thence its power descends. We recognise this whenever we pray, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

- Therefore, according to the Apostle, the standard of our living, and its sanctions, and its way of thinking and proceeding, and, in a word, our city, with its interests and its objects, being in heaven, the earnest business of our life is there. We have to do with earth constantly and in ways most various; but, as Christians, our way of having to do with the earth itself is heavenly, and is to be conversant with heaven.
  - What we mainly love and seek is in heaven;
  - what we listen most to hear is the voice that comes from heaven;
  - what we most earnestly speak is the voice we send to heaven;
  - what lies next our heart is the treasure and the hope which are secure in heaven;
  - we are most intent upon is what we lay up in heaven, and how we are getting ready for heaven;
  - there is One in heaven whom we love above all others;
  - we are children of the kingdom of heaven;
  - it is our country and our home;
  - and something in us refuses to settle on those things here that reject the stamp of heaven.
- Does this go too high? Does some one say, "Something in this direction attracts me and I reach out to it, but ah! how feebly"?-then how strongly does the principle of the Apostle's admonition apply. If we own that this city rightfully claims us, if we are deeply conscious of shortcoming in our response to that claim, then how much does it concern us to allow no earthly thing that by its own nature drags us down from our citizenship in heaven.
- Matthew Henry
  - For our conversation is in heaven. Observe, Good Christians, even while they are here on earth, have their conversation in heaven. Their citizenship is there, politeuma. ... This world is not our home, but that is. There our greatest privileges and concerns lie. And, because our citizenship is there, our conversation is there; being related to that world, we keep up a correspondence with it. The life of a Christian is in heaven, where his head is, and his home is, and where he hopes to be shortly; he sets his affections upon things above; and where his heart is there will his conversation be. ... It is good having fellowship with those who have fellowship with Christ, and conversation with those whose conversation is in heaven.
    - 2. Because at the second coming of Christ we expect to be happy and glorified there. There is good reason to have our conversation in heaven, not only because Christ is now there, but because we hope to be there shortly:

Who shall change our vile bodies, that they may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, Php\_3:21. ....

## TARGET STATEMENT

To supply a reminder to spiritual people of where they are, and to where they are going, in hopes of creating more determination to go to heaven and not be pulled back down to earthly things.

## IMPORTANT WORDS WITH SYNONYMS

Find Important words with synonyms

- Citizenship
  - Ethnic group
  - Society
  - Community
  - Native land
- Citizen
  - Native
  - Resident
  - Dweller
  - Occupant
  -
- fellow-citizen
- Upward
  - Up
  - Skyward
  - Ascending
  - above
- Colony
  - Outpost
  - Satellite
  - Settlement
  -
- Pilgrims
  - Traveler
  - Sojourner
  - wanderer
- Rules
  - Customs
- Practice
- Regulations
- System
- Purchase
  - Acquire
  - Investment
  - Buy
  - Redeem
  - Attain
  - Pay for
  - Bought
  -
- Representative
  - Agent
  - Delegate
  - Messenger
  - Spokesperson
  -
- Community
  - People
  - Society
  - Commonality
  - Identity
  - Kinship
  - Semblance
  -
- Society
  - Culture

- Group
- League
- Union
- 
- Home
  - Dwelling
- Mansion
- Palace
- Place
- Castle
- Country
- Family

Make Key Phrase

**Create brief outline**

Christians are foreigners

Define Christians

FIRST, We were made citizens by being purchased, redeemed.

SECOND, This world is not home for the Christian.

The Christian is not fixated on earthly things, but is longing is to go home.

Things seen are temporary. Unseen things of heaven are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The things of this world are of little importance.

THIRD, What I have in heaven is reserved for me.

1 Peter 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

What Christians have in heaven is better and lasts.

FOURTH, Christians are pilgrims, along with their fellow-citizens, God's family.

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (14) For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. (15) And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

FIFTH, Since God is my Father, and Jesus is my Lord and master, I must be part of God's family.

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

If pilgrims, why do we pay so much attention to our existence here?

SIXTH, since heaven is my home, and I am governed by heaven's regulations, I have BIG benefits

As citizens of heaven we are represented by Jesus before God

As citizens of heaven, we can go before the King anytime we want.

As citizens of heaven, we spend a few hours daily on earth, but then we mentally go back home, or true home.

FINAL SCRIPTURE:

Philippians 3:20 NAS95 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

### Additional Resources

GBN

- Are You Homesick for Heaven
  - <https://youtu.be/JnKIQviwrOo>
- Treasures in Heaven
  - <https://youtu.be/aO5V0eRJjsQ>

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Online Academy of Biblical Studies

- Laying Up Treasures for Heaven
  - <https://media.oabs.org//vod.php?id=4493>;

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WVBS

- Becoming a Kingdom Citizen
  - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/sermon-on-the-mount-18-becoming-a-kingdom-citizen-part-3/>
- Kingdom Citizens and Their Treasures (part 2)
  - <https://video.wvbs.org/video/sermon-on-the-mount-13-kingdom-citizens-and-their-treasures-part-2/>

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Search

- Heaven
  - <https://youtu.be/bv6S48opRk0>
  - Transcript (downloaded)
- After Life (booklet)
  - <https://timelesstalks.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AfterLifeBooklet.pdf>
- The Church Jesus Built
  - <https://youtu.be/Vl08j22zwXE>

- Transcript: (downloaded)

## We See Jesus, by John Ratliff

- This World Is Not My Home.
  - <https://weseesus.wordpress.com/2012/10/23/this-world-is-not-my-home/>
- For What Will It Profit
  - <https://weseesus.wordpress.com/2014/08/19/for-what-will-it-profit/>

## La Vista Church of Christ

- Strangers and Pilgrims in this World
  - <http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVarticles/StrangersAndPilgrimsInThisWorld.html>
- Are You A Christian?
  - <https://www.lavistachurchofchrist.org/cms/are-you-a-christian/>

## WordPoints

- Living “As Unto The Lord”
  - <https://wordpoints.com/are-you-a-christian/people-god/people-god-lesson-8/>
- Who Am I? A Heaven-Bound Person
  - <https://wordpoints.com/ser0008-heaven-bound-person/>

## The Gospel Message

- Dual Citizenship
  - <https://www.gospelmessage.net/2021/06/2021-6-30-dual-citizenship/>
- Being a Traveler
  - <https://www.gospelmessage.net/2017/03/being-a-traveler/>
  -

## TimelessTalks.net or my other files.

- 7 Facts About Heaven
  - <https://timelesstalks.net/7-facts-about-heaven/>
- After Life (booklet)
  - <https://timelesstalks.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/AfterLifeBooklet.pdf>
- The Church Jesus Built
  - (Transcript downloaded)