



April 28th Sermon Questions

Our Allegiance to King Jesus

Philippians 3:17- 4:1

Icebreaker Questions: If you could live in any country other than the US, which one would you choose and why?

Discussion Questions: Read the scripture verses above.

1. What does citizenship mean to you? What benefits do you receive as a citizen of a certain country?
2. When Paul tells the Philippian church that "our citizenship is in heaven" (v.20), he is not primarily talking about a future or geographically far off reality, but one that is here and now. Just as the task of a Roman citizen in a place like Philippi was to bring Roman culture and rule to northern Greece, so it is the Christian's responsibility to bring the good news of Jesus and kind rule of the kingdom of God to his or her context. With that in mind, what do you think it looks like to live as a citizen of heaven?
3. Paul reminds the Christians that Jesus is our "Savior" and "Lord" (v.20), meaning that he is the one who brings deliverance and freedom to his people, which was Caesar's role for Roman citizens. What does it look like practically for Jesus to be the one to whom you give your loyalty and in whom you place your hope?
4. To what or to whom are you pledging your allegiance and giving your loyalty? How might Jesus deliver you from alternate allegiances?

5. In what ways do you believe, think, and/or act as though America is your savior and your hope? What might it look like for you to believe and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior this presidential election year?
6. Paul wants his readers to think out what it means to give their primary allegiance not to Rome but to heaven, not to Caesar but to Jesus. What do you think it would look like for you to live as one whose primary allegiance was to heaven with the responsibility for bringing the life and rule of heaven to bear on earth?
7. In the previous section of the letter (3:1-16) Paul sets aside his Jewishness and Roman citizenship for the sake of the gospel, and now he boldly invites the Philippians to imitate his behavior (3:17). What would it look like for you to follow Paul's example in making your Heavenly citizenship your primary identity marker?
8. Paul exhorts the Philippians to "stand firm . . . in the Lord" (4:1), because there are always negative consequences when one violates the norms and social order of the cultural kingdom in which they live. How has Paul himself already demonstrated this to them?
9. In what areas of your life do you need to stand firm right now? How might this group help you to do that?
10. What's your take away from our discussion tonight? What do you need to do this week to follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and/or participate in the mission of Jesus?