

#### PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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**SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)** 

**TITLE: Program 22 – No Regrets!** 

#### **TUESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Where's your citizenship my friend? You say, "Well, I'm a citizen of the United States of America. I'm a citizen of the EU." No, I want to take you beyond that. Where is your eternal citizenship? Is your eternal citizenship in heaven? And if it is Beloved, how are you walking and what are you eagerly waiting for? Because if it's in heaven there's something that is far beyond this world.

### **PART ONE**

O Beloved, I am excited about today's message, because it's going to help you take your eyes off of this world and place them on eternal values. And when you do that, when you live that way you will live without regrets. Because the Bible tells us in Revelation, chapter 22:12, [that Jesus Christ is coming again, and that His reward is with Him to give to everyone of us according to our deeds.] And the problem today is we take our eyes off of



eternity and we place them on the temporal. And when we do then we don't have the right perspective on life. And what Paul wants us to understand in Philippians, chapter 3 in verse 17 through 21 is that it is essential that you watch the way you walk, because your citizenship is not on this earth, but your citizenship is in heaven. And because you're citizenship is in heaven then you're waiting. You say, waiting for what? Well let's read the text. And it's Philippians, chapter 3, verse 17. And he says, "Brethren." I called you Beloved; many times Paul will call you Beloved. But he's writing to those who are part of the body of Jesus Christ. He's talking to genuine Christians. And he says, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern that you have in us." (Philippians **3:17**) He says, ["Watch the way people walk."] Because the way people walk, and the way people live tells you a lot about their values. And he says, "Many walk, of whom I [have] often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of [Jesus] Christ." (Philippians 3:18) Now he's saying, ["Many are walking, and yet all are not walking the same way. And the reason that I am warning you and the reason that I want you to understand eternity, and the reason I want you to have eternal values, rather than temporal values, is because among those that name the name of Jesus Christ are many who I have warned you about again and again and I'm telling you now, and I'm telling you weeping, because it breaks my heart, that these men, that these women are enemies of the cross of Jesus Christ. And they're enemies of the cross of Jesus Christ because the cross calls every single believer to live what we call a crucified life." In other words, it's no longer you living your way. You no longer just looking at the temporality of this world and getting entangled with the affairs of this life, but it is you living life on the highest plane. And the highest plane is the plane of understanding where your citizenship is. So he goes on to say, describing these people, that their "end is destruction." (Philippians **3:19a)** Now I want you to understand that. These people who are naming the



name of Jesus Christ are going to be destroyed. In other words, they are never going to taste salvation. They think they're going to heaven, but when eternity starts they're not going to find themselves in heaven. They're going to find themselves in hell. They're going to find themselves destined for the lake of fire. You say, "Come on Kay, nobody believes in hell anymore. Nobody believes in the lake of fire." Beloved, I want you to know it does not matter what man believes. It only matters what God says, because this book is absolute, pure, unadulterated truth. And you may be listening and you may say, "But I don't agree with that." That's your choice. You can agree with it or you can disagree with it, but it does not change the validity of it. And so he says, "[Their] end is destruction." He says, "Whose god is their appetite." He's describing them. "Whose glory is their shame." (**Philippians 3:19a**) In other words, they are excited about and participating and glorying in things that are really an absolute disgrace, because the way that they're living does not show where their citizenship is. They're professing one thing with their lips, but they're living another way with their lives. So it says, "Their glory is ...their shame, [and they] set their mind on earthly things." (Philippians 3:19b) Now watch the contrast that he's going to bring to us at this point, because he says, "[They] set their mind on earthly things," (contrast). "For our citizenship," I'm the pattern, Timothy's the pattern, watch the way we walk, our citizenship is not on this earth. "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which [we also] eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20) In other words, we understand that Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth. We understand that Jesus Christ is going to set up His kingdom and He is going to rule on the face of this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. And so understanding that, we are eagerly waiting for Him because we're not involved in earthly things; we're involved in heavenly things, because our citizenship is not here on earth. O yes, we're citizens of the United States or of the EU or of Brazil or whatever country we live in, but we have a



different citizenship. We have a higher citizenship. We have a higher calling. And that is that we are citizens, we are part – in another way to translate citizens is our commonwealth, the country that we belong to, the country that we come from, the country that we represent, the kingdom that we are united with. Our commonwealth is in heaven. Now it is a heavenly kingdom that is ruling over earth. It's the kingdom of heaven. You say, "It's not doing a very good job of ruling right now." Well right now the kingdom of heaven has allowed Satan, the prince of this world, to rule over the face of this earth. And so 1 John, chapter 5, verse 19 tells us: "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19) And yet the power of the evil one is limited by God. And it is limited for a certain amount of time. Let me show you this. I want to take you to some prophetic passages because I want you to understand all about your citizenship in heaven. And so I told you right now Satan's rule is limited. And when we come to Revelation, chapter 12, and in Revelation, chapter 12 he says in verse 9, "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who [was] called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. [Now] I heard a loud voice." And it says, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ has come, for the accuser of our brethren," that's Satan, "has been thrown down," thrown down to earth. "He...accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb...because of the word of their testimony." (Revelation 12:9-11) And the word of their testimony is, "Hey, I'm a citizen of heaven. Hey, I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ." ['Greater is He that's in me than he that's in you.'] And I'm not to fear you who can kill the body. Rather I'm to fear God who can kill and cast both body and soul into hell." And it says, "And they did not love their life even to death. For this reason rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them." Now watch. "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has



come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." (Revelation 12:11b-12) Now if you've downloaded our study guide, then you have in this lesson that we're doing, you have a diagram of what's going to happen prophetically. You have a diagram of when our Savior comes and returns to earth and sets up His kingdom here on earth. And you can see that before He does that, three and a half years before He does that is when the devil is cast out of heaven, when he comes down to earth, when he knows he has only a short time and his vengeance is let loose. And then you have the conflict of the kingdoms. You have the conflict of the kingdoms of this earth, which are controlled by Satan the devil, and the conflict of heaven and I can tell you who wins. And who wins is God. And so we are on the winning team. So this is what he's talking about. He's talking about the fact that you and I are eagerly waiting for the Savior. Now watch what it says, "[For] the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state," this physical body, "into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even," now watch this, "to subject all things to [Him]." (Philippians 3:20b-21) God has the power to subject all things to Him, so Beloved, before we take this break, just let me say this: God is omnipotent and he will bring you to your knees, either in this life when you confess Christ, or He will bring you to your knees when you acknowledge that you refuse to believe in the Son of God. We're going to talk about it more, but first we need to hear this important message.

#### **PART TWO**

Have, have you lost, Beloved, the anticipation of the fact that Jesus is coming again? I mean have you become so entangled with the affairs of this life, and it's so easy, isn't it? I mean it is constant noise in our lives. It is constant interruption. We have the cell phones; we're constantly being called. We're ringing; we're talking; we're walking you know. And business is going on and we're tired and we're exhausted and life is at such a



horrendous pace that sometimes we forget this world is not my home. I don't have to live this way, caught up and entangled with the affairs of this life. Yes, I have to earn a living. Yes, I have to go to work. Yes, I have to keep a home. Yes, I have to raise my children. But what is coming? What is coming? What is going to hold me? Well there ought to be in our walk and in our thinking during the day an eager anticipation Beloved, an eager anticipation of the fact that Jesus Christ is coming. And when Jesus Christ is coming then the world will stop slamming, degrading, trying to silence the Christian because that's what's happening in our society right now. That's what's happening in the world. The world, because it lies under the power of the evil one does not want to hear a thing about Jesus Christ. They don't want us to consult the Bible. They don't want us to pray. You know a friend of mine told me the other day that they went to Washington, D.C.; they went to the National Cathedral. They went down into the bookstore because they operate our bookstore here at Precept Ministries International at our headquarters. They nearly died because there Buddha's down there being sold in the National Cathedral. And they said, well it doesn't matter, just so we pray. O Beloved, it matters because Buddha is an idol. Buddha is a figment of a man's imagination and it is something that has caught the imagination of the world and the devil is happy to have it happen because it is a false god and then with the worship of a false god it brings you under the power of the evil one. We have to know that there's one and only one true God and that is the sovereign ruler of all the universe and His Son's name is Jesus Christ. He is YESHUA. He is our Savior. He is Messiah. He is the Promised One and He is coming again. Now, it says that we are to "eagerly wait for [our] Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state." (Philippians 3:20b-21a) Now he's talking about a change of this physical body. And He's going to transform the physical body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory. Now what does He mean by that? Well one of the things that you



want to do and you learn to do as you study the Bible, is to let Scripture interpret Scripture. So we want to go to 1 John, chapter 3. 1 John, chapter 3. And in 1 John, chapter 3 this is what he says at the beginning of this chapter. "See how great a love the Father has bestowed [upon] us." That's why I call you Beloved because you're beloved to God. "That we [should] be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason," now listen, "the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." (1 John **3:1**) If they're not going to believe on Jesus they certainly aren't going to accept His followers. If they aren't going to accept the fact that Jesus is God in the flesh, the Son of God, the only way to God, the way, the truth and the life, and the fact that no one comes to the Father except by Him, if they don't believe that, they're not going to accept anything that you have to say. But this is the reason that the world doesn't know us, because "our citizenship is in heaven." (Philippians 3:20a) We belong to the commonwealth of heaven, not the commonwealth of earth, wherever we live on planet earth. And so he goes on to say, "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. [But] we know that when He appears, we [shall] be like Him, [for] we will see Him...as He is." (1 John 3:2) And so what he's telling us is that the body of this humble state, as Philippians 3 says we'll be changed into "the body of His glory." In other words, when we see Him we will be like Him. And what is this hope? Well, in verse 3 it says, "And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him," (1 John 3:3) we eagerly wait for the Savior, we eagerly wait for the Savior. We have "this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, [even as He, even as Jesus is pure.]" In other words, you're not going to let sin stay in your life. You're going to get rid of it. You're going to walk not like the world walks. Your God is not going to be your belly, your appetite. Your glory is not going to be your shame. Your end is not going to be destruction. Rather you're going to walk the way Paul walked because Paul was an imitator of Christ. So then we see in 1 John 3:3 that this body is going to be



like His body. Now what's that going to be like? Well 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 is the other passage that you want to go to, 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, and it is a wonderful, wonderful cross-reference. And this is why, Beloved, with this program, Precepts for Life, we're studying the Word of God book-bybook, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse so that you get the whole message, cause every book has an individual message. Well in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, which is the resurrection chapter, which talks about this new body that's going to be changed into a body like His, this is what he says, in verse 50: "I [tell you] this brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." And it says, "Nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." (1 Corinthians 15:50) In other words, this physical body, something has to happen to it. It has to change because it's perishable and it can't inherit the imperishable. So what is he going to do? He says, "I tell you a mystery;" pssst, I've got a secret for you. He says, "We will not all sleep." We will not all die. But, now watch, "we all," we all who? We all whose citizenship is in heaven, "we all will be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of [the] eye, at the last trumpet; [and then] the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we [shall] be changed. For this perishable must put on...imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. [For] when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:50-54) And the victory that he's talking about in Philippians, chapter 3 is the victory, Precious One, of you and I putting on this body of glory and we do it by the exertion of the power that is in Jesus Christ. In other words, when we die and we see God face to face and then we get ready to return with the Lord to this earth we will have an imperishable, immortal, incorruptible body. It will be a body like Jesus. And remember, after He was resurrected He could even walk through solid material. It's a body that's going to live forever. Listen, Beloved, your



citizenship is in heaven. And if it is then you need to remember you're not of this world. So don't let the world squeeze you into its mold. Remember you're citizenship is in heaven and you are eagerly waiting for the Savior who is going to deliver you from the wrath, which is to come. Look up, Beloved, because your redemption draws nigh.