

Eyes on the Prize

Philippians 3:12-4:1

In the previous verses, Paul gives testimony about renouncing everything in order to gain Christ

He means **sharing in His suffering, being like Him in death and attaining to the resurrection of the body**

What?

We keep our eyes fixed on the prize

Paul's testimony—*don't look back*

Paul wants his readers to **imitate Christ in him** (17)

Never plateau (12-13a)

We stagnate through either neglect or arrogance

Forget what is past and strain forward (13b-14)

Confess your past faults, make things right with others to the extent that you can, and press on without looking back

The prize is **the fulfillment of what God called you to** in connection with your union with Jesus Christ—**gaining Christ**

Keep your mind's eye fixed on the goal (15)

This kind of **spiritual thinking is maturity**

Connection with Jesus—*don't look around*

Peter's experience walking on waves to Jesus is instructive

Matthew 14:30-31, ESV—*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

The promise is resurrection, which is **the ultimate end of the goal of "gaining Christ"** (21)

With resurrection power, **Jesus even brings death into subjection**

The Big Question—**What does it mean to have our citizenship in heaven?**

The foundational truth—**our citizenship is in heaven, but our goal is a person, not a place** (20)

First, of all, let's realize that Paul is not saying that going to heaven is the prize—**gaining Christ is the prize** (10, 11)

Heaven will not be our eternal home—the new order will

Our citizenship is in heaven because **our sovereign, King Jesus, dwells there, our names are written there, we obey heaven's laws and we're loyal to the heavenly cause**

We wait for Him here, while we work towards and pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven

So What?

Preach the truths, exhortations and promises to yourself

The foundational truth—**"Your citizenship is in heaven, but you wait for Christ's return"**

The promise—**"The Lord will transform your body"**

The exhortation—**"Press on"**

The last word—*the Preacher of Hebrews*

Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV—*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*

Now What?

Consider adopting mentors you can imitate

Preach the truth, promise and exhortation to yourself