



“Only live as citizens of worthy of the Gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.”

-Philippians 1:27

Philippi was a proud Roman colony with a great heritage in Roman life and culture as most of its inhabitants were descendants of soldiers from the army of Marc Antony and Octavian.

As the church, we must see ourselves as heavenly citizens standing firm in an earthly kingdom infiltrated with enemies of the cross who are in need of the saving grace of Jesus.

### Standing Firm as Gospel Citizens Begins With...

(3:18-19)

***For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.***

“Enemies of the cross” are those who reject the Gospel message of the cross (Mtt. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Jesus taught that “many” would start off appearing to believe the word of God in the cross of Christ and end up rejecting the word because they were never truly saved (Luke 8:4-15; Mtt. 13:1-23).

“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” -1 John 1:6

The destructive lifestyles of these “enemies of the cross of Christ” would lead to a destructive “end” in eternal hell, a place of everlasting “destruction” (Mtt. 25:46; 2 Thes. 1:9).

“Their god is their belly” means that while they profess to know God they are “ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

“They glory in their shame” refers to glorying in grossly perverted, sensual and sexual desires of which should bring “shame.”

“The mind set on earthly things” is a worldly mindset that is set on living for this present world with all its pursuits and pleasures (Jms. 4:4).

### The Gospel Citizen in America Must-

1) \_\_\_\_\_

“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brother, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”

-Paul’s Heartbreaking Over the Lostness of His Countrymen in Romans 9:2-3

The moral devolution of America in its destructive lifestyles of adultery, child sacrifice, homosexuality and bestiality will destroy this country from within (Lev. 18:20-25).

2) \_\_\_\_\_

God judges nations and brings them to an end when their sin reaches a point of no return as “the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (Rms. 1:18; Gen. 15:16; Deut. 9:4).

3) \_\_\_\_\_

“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God was making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”-2 Corinthians 5:17-20

### Standing Firm as Gospel Citizens is Sustained By...

(3:20-4:1)

***But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.***

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”-Ephesians 2:19

Christians must realize that our ultimate homeland is heaven as we live under the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:19; Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 12:22).

The Christian awaits Jesus’ return which will bring a radical transformation as both body and soul will be powerfully remade into the image of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:49; Col. 3:4; 1 John 3:2).

This radical resurrection transformation is possible because Jesus possesses the power that enables him “to subject all things to himself” (Ps. 8:6).

### A Gospel Citizen Stands Firm-

1) \_\_\_\_\_

“If the you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth.” -Colossians 3:1-2

The kingdom of God should dominate every aspect of our lives as our lives orbit “the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Mtt. 6:33).

2) \_\_\_\_\_

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again to take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”-Jesus in John 14:3

3) \_\_\_\_\_

King Jesus will establish his kingdom where our allegiance will be eternally undivided as Jesus will be our king and heaven our kingdom (Mt. 6:10).