

Philippians 3:20-4:1

Introduction

I. Perspective

- A. Quote: “Live as though Christ is coming tonight and plan as though he won’t come in your lifetime.”
- B. The importance of perspective
 - It determines our priorities, actions, and view of ourselves and reality
- C. Sources of perspective
 - Parents, friends, personal experiences
- D. Perspectives on reality
 - materialistic, hedonistic, atheistic, agnostic

The Passage

4 key aspects of perspective

I. Recognize that this world is not our home

- A. v. 20: “Our citizenship is in heaven”
- B. Analogy: When tourists travel to Zambia they always keep their passports with them. We should be more like that during our sojourn in this life (always keeping our heavenly citizenship close to our hearts and minds)
- C. It’s so tempting to focus on this life: success, comfort, etc

II. Remember that Jesus will come for us

- A. v. 20: we eagerly await a Savior from heavenly, the Lord Jesus Christ”
- B. Jn 14:3: Jesus will prepare a place for us and then come back and take us there
- C. We should live as though we can’t wait to see him face to face

III. Realize that we will be eternally transformed

- A. v. 21: “who will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body”
- B. We’ll have transformed bodies that don’t break down like our current bodies
- C. We’ll have a transformed character
- D. Our transformation has already begun

IV. Respond by standing firm in our hope in Christ

- A. v. 1: “stand firm in the Lord”
- B. Realize that this world will never fill up the empty places we have (only Christ can do that)
- C. We need a hope strong enough to carry us through the tough times

Discussion Questions

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?
2. What is one thing in this life that you tend to hold onto too tightly and place your hope or find your security in rather than Christ (possessions, status, a person, your reputation, etc)?
3. What's a key event or idea God has used in your life that has helped you to have a more eternal perspective on things?
4. What are regular practices or postures we can take to keep a more eternal perspective on our lives? What has been effective for you, if anything?
5. Discuss the following statement: "having a more eternal perspective will actually increase (rather than decrease) our satisfaction in this life."