



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 3:20

NC0177

TITLE: Are You Ready?

One of the benefits of traveling is the anticipation of the return. It's great to connect with new friends around the world. It's a real pleasure to see new sights and try new foods. But I love that call I get to make before I get on my flight back home. I tell my family, "I'll see you soon." That sets the timer. That marks the moment a reunion is coming. So what does my family do? They clean up the house. They sometimes make a banner. But when I get to my home, they run out the door and hug me. That readiness and anticipation are so special.

We all are to live with anticipation and expectation for King Jesus. Here's what Paul said about this in Philippians 3:20 (NLT):

[“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.”](#)

Paul has been talking about the importance of unity - the importance of living a life reflective of our following Christ - not like those false teachers. No, we are to live like citizens of Heaven.

One of the tragedies of the modern age is globalization. Countries and cultures are losing their identities. But I will tell you, there are certain places that make it clear of their citizenship. You know you're in Bavaria and not Lincoln, NE. You know you're in New Delhi and not New London, Minnesota. They display their citizenship on their sleeves. And so should we. Why should we do this? Well, for one, it shows the authenticity of our Salvation. It shows the love and appreciation for our Salvation. But it also tells God and the world we are anticipating the return of Jesus.

When the President of the United States or another world leader is scheduled to make a visit, there's a lot of preparation that happens. It's a big event and the people hosting want it to be just right. Years ago, I showed up at a small Apologetics conference, hosted by an unknown acquaintance. He had not prepared. He didn't adequately promote the event. He hadn't prepped the site. He didn't really prep the speakers. It was a disaster.

We don't want that to be true for Jesus. Jesus is coming again and at any time. Yes, there are signs to look for. And friend, I believe his return is imminent. Are you prepared? Are you waiting with anticipation?

That's why this is my challenge for you today: How are you living? Are you living with anticipation or hesitation? Are you coasting in your walk with God? If so, it shows. Or are you

living on purpose and for a purpose? Is your focus on Heaven? On that Heavenly prize? Are you expecting an imminent return? Or are you focused on your goals and a hopefully late return?

Evaluate your anticipation and then adjust accordingly. Even Paul needed to adjust. He was human - so am I, and so are you.

The King is coming, so let's put on our Sunday best in word and in action. When we do this, we will win the day.