

The Tale of Two Paths and Two Cities (Philippians 3:20-4:1)

- Having described enemies of the cross, he contrasts citizens of heaven

I. Christian Hope Defined: “A Citizen of Heaven” (3:20a)

- Paul contrasts between the way of those who are enemies of the cross
- And those who are citizens of heaven and who cling to the cross
- a) Earthbound mind-set against believers’ heavenly identity & citizenship
Col.3:1-5, 12-14; Gal 5:6
- b) Different destinies await those who are earth bound & heaven bound
- For those who do not love the cross their only end is destruction

II. Christian Hope Explained: Its Focus and Culmination (3:20b-21)

- A Savior: His coming primarily in His function & capacity as a Savior
- Waiting for Him eagerly: on tiptoes, for Jesus to come from heaven
- The Lord Jesus Christ: He is the LORD Jehovah of the Old Testament
 - a) The dignity of His divine personage
 - b) His Lordship by virtue of His humility – His Messianic Lordship
- The culmination of this hope: “a glorious transformed body”
- “lowly body” same word Mary uses in Luke 1:48 to describe herself
- Mystery: Jesus will appear & transform our bodies (1 Cor 15:35-49)

Application

- a) What is your actual relationship to heaven?
- b) What’s your personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior?
- c) What is your practical relationship to your body?