

## “Citizenshift”

- Introduction:
1. Our plea is to be Christians, and Christians only; to go back to the Bible and simply be and practice what the Bible teaches.
  2. Could it be that we still need to restore some matters concerning 1<sup>st</sup> century Christianity?
    - a. Not in form, but in function?
  3. This series of lessons will challenge us to make what may be some necessary shifts in our way of looking at certain Bible topics.

### I. The Importance of Citizenship

- A. As Americans, we place a great deal of pride in our citizenship.
- B. Most of the world would desire to live where we live and have the freedoms we have.
- C. However, as great as it is to be a citizen of the United States, it pales in comparison to being a citizen of Heaven!
- D. (Philippians 3:17-21).
- E. Philippi was a Macedonian city, but was also a Roman colony and thus given Roman citizenship.
- F. Some of the advantages of citizenship.
  1. The right to vote.
  2. The right to hold office.
  3. Free from certain taxes.
  4. Couldn't be beaten/had a right to a trial.
  5. Exempt from agonizing death.

### II. Shifts We May Need To Make With Respect To Our Citizenship

- A. A Shift In Our Loyalty.
  1. Proud of our earthly citizenship? How much more our heavenly?
  2. Social issues consume the time and energy of some people.
  3. I wish we were as vocal about Jesus as we are social issues, political candidates, and in defending our political parties.
- B. A Shift In Our Focus
  1. More attention needs to be given to heaven!
  2. (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16).
  3. (Philippians 3:19).
  4. (Colossians 3:1-2).
- C. A Shift In Our Security
  1. Our heavenly citizenship isn't contingent upon the nature or success of any worldly kingdom.
  2. Christianity can exist wherever it is planted.
  3. The decline and degradation of a nation does not affect my heavenly citizenship.
  4. The world has always been and will always be antagonistic toward Christianity.
  5. (2 Timothy 2:19).

- Conclusion:
1. Take great joy in being a citizen of Heaven.
  2. Maintain a proper perspective.
  3. Whatever privileges your earthly citizenship affords you, they pale in comparison to your heavenly citizenship!