

# A HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

Christians are the called of God through the gospel and sons of faith who put on Christ when they were baptized into Christ. Conversion is a change – a change of faith, practice, character, pursuit, allegiance and relationship. Allegiance in Christ means a Christian's loyalty is to the Lord Jesus, to whom our heavenly Father has given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Jesus Christ rules. He is the King of kings, reigning on the promised throne at God's right hand. Christ's kingdom is all people who have been redeemed through His blood. Through the only begotten Son, God delivers forgiven sinners from the power of darkness and transfers them into His Son's kingdom (cf. Colossians 1:13-14). Christians are "fellow citizens" in a spiritual kingdom (cf. Ephesians 2:19), and that kingdom is an unshakeable one (cf. Hebrews 12:28).

Since Christians are citizens of the Son's kingdom, their citizenship is spiritual and heavenly (cf. Philippians 3:20). Brethren of the Lord are scattered all over the world, living in their own respective countries as citizens of temporary nations, but Christians are not truly of this world though they are in the world (cf. John 17:15-16). Instead, they are "sojourners" in their own homelands (cf. I Peter 2:11). As sojourners their true and lasting citizenship is in Christ, and that citizenship has changed their allegiance and purpose in life.

Like men of faith of ages past, Christians are seeking a better homeland, a heavenly one (cf. Hebrews 11:13-16). God has prepared a place for His people. The Lord Jesus promised the apostles that He was going to prepare place for them and He will return that they may be with Him where He is (cf. John 14:1-3). In the end the Lord will give His kingdom, of which Christians are citizens, to God the Father (cf. I Corinthians 15:24). Then the people of God will forever be with God in heaven. Looking forward to these things, how much more ought Christians be diligent to be found in holy conduct, godliness and peace (cf. II Peter 3:11, 14).