

Title: I'm Longing for Home

Scripture: Philippians 3:20-21

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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Philippians 3:20-21 *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*

There are different things in this world that can distract us from our vision. Our vision should be on our heavenly home. The song "I'm Longing for Home" describes what we should strive for.

Verse 1 I'm only a pilgrim and stranger, in this unfriendly world I roam, serving him who has called me from darkness, and promised a heavenly home, of his wonderful love I am telling, where ever on earth I may be, I'm striving each day to be faithful, to the Savior who suffered for me.

Chorus: I'm longing for home, for the sun's going down, I want to go where, sweet rest can be found, I'm just about through, with this old house of clay, I'm leaving this world, for glory someday.

Verse 2: Soon labors on earth will be ended, we'll be leaving this old world for aye, we'll leave the dark valley of shadows, for a land that is better they say, in the Bible we read of a city, who's builder is Jesus we're told, someday this frail tent will be folded, and the beautiful scene shall unfold.

Ways We Should View Heaven:

- 1. We need to view heaven as our hope:** Although we have struggles and situations going on right now, we still have hope. I Peter 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"* In heaven we find Christ. Christ is our number one hope. In heaven we also find our eternal home. Matthew 5:12 says *"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."* John 14:1-3 says *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*
- 2. We need to view heaven as a haven:** A haven is a resting place or a safe place. On this earth we are getting weary. We grow more tired each day. Job 14:1 *"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble."* Simply by the way the world operates, we can grow to expect pain and suffering. This is because of sin. Thankfully for those that are saved, we will have a place to go after we leave this earth where we can rest. Not just physically or mentally, but we will be able to rest in the presence of our Lord. In Revelation 21:4, it says *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*
- 3. We need to view heaven as home:** verse 20 says *"For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"* We've all heard the phrase "home is where the heart is". If this is true, where is your heart? Have you taken your citizenship further from being at home in this world to a citizenship of heaven? Just like military personnel overseas receive care packages that contain items from home, God is giving us care packages every week. We get this by being able to attend church, by reading his word, praying, and having fellowship with one another. In Philippians 1, Paul expresses his desire to go "home", but he knows he is needed here on earth.

With the title being "I'm Longing for Home", are you a part of his family? Will you get to go home to be with the father? John 3:17 says *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*