

# Notes Guide

Week eight <sup>\*pm</sup>  
only



# Be a model citizen

## Questions

### Way in

Have you ever lived in a foreign country? What was it like (or what might it be like) to live a long way from home among people with different customs? Would you enjoy being different, or would you want to blend in?

### Read **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

*Roman citizenship in the first century world was a tremendous privilege and source of pride. Philippi had become a Roman colony. In each colony wherever they were, Roman dress was worn; Roman magistrates governed them; people spoke Latin; Roman justice was administered; Roman morals observed. However far the colonies were from Rome, they remained unshakably and unalterably Roman. So Paul says to the Philippians, "Just as the Roman colonist never forgets that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are a citizen of heaven."*

1. How often do you think about heaven? And when you do, what do you think about? Paul says in verse 20 that we are citizens of heaven now, and that it should make a difference to us now. Looking back over verses 17-19, can you pick out any of the key ways that we need to be different from people around us because we are citizens of heaven?

2. Again in verse 20, Paul says that we are people 'eagerly awaiting' Jesus return. What are some of the big hopes that people around us have for the future? It is always tempting to live for the here and now, but what difference might it make for us to be people who are expecting Jesus to return? What difference could it make to the way we use our time or our money?

3. The older we get, the more our bodies will begin to let us down. In verse 21, Paul tells us that when Jesus returns, he will change our bodies to be like Jesus' resurrection body. What will that mean? Some people think that heaven will be an existence without bodies and without purpose. How can we be sure that heaven will be more real and satisfying than life now?

4. In the final verse of this section, Paul says that he has been explaining how we should stand firm. Looking back over the chapter, what are the key truths that you need to hold onto so that you can stand firm? Write them down and pray for God's help to live them out.

## Quote for **Reflection**

*Unfortunately, in our day belief in the second coming of Jesus Christ has faded into a remote and sometimes irrelevant doctrine in many large segments of the Christian church. And it is entirely possible that our present lack of courage and lack of joy flow from this attitude.*  
(James Boice)

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## Sermon notes

6:30pm service  
**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

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Our **destiny**

Our **saviour**

Our **confidence**