

# Applying for Citizenship!



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The apostle Paul told us to follow his *example* and not to set our mind on *earthly* things, like those do who are enemies of the cross of Christ, because *Philippians 3:20* “*Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

The only citizenship to apply for is a permanent one in Heaven and one that is never annulled, canceled, or withdrawn once accepted. Our citizenship *must* be Heaven and it *can* be by our meeting the *conditions* God has clearly stated in the Bible.

All who are accepted and enter Heaven will join the angels worshipping God *Revelation 7:12* “*Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*” All who apply for citizenship and are accepted *Revelation 7:14* “*Have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*”

We must know what it means to have our sins washed away by the Blood of the Lamb and to have our names written in the Book, because *Revelation 21:27* “*There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*”

No one should miss Heaven—and no one *would* miss it if they are willing to meet the *conditions* to enter. Heaven is a prepared *place* for a prepared *people*—God is just getting us ready for our new home.

Jesus said *not* to be troubled in heart, but to *believe* God in faith—and *John 14:1* “*Believe also in me. 2 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.*”

God promises a glorious eternity to His children—no sickness, no pain, nor heartache; never getting old or tired; never being depressed; no tears or good-byes; no disappointments; and no harm is ever done to another. There are no earthquakes, storms, or hurricanes; it is never too hot and never too cold—there is *no night there*—just one eternal day!

Jesus was in Heaven, and He came to earth to describe it to us—*I go to prepare a place for you*. It is difficult to picture this celestial city; one that has *perfection* for its standard; and *Jehovah* for its God—a city with jasper walls; pearls for gates; and saints for its citizens.

*Revelation 21:3* “*I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 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.*”

God said *Isaiah 65:17* “*Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*” Everyone will be robed in white—*Luke 13:28* “*Ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God.*”

Jesus said. Those who were *not* able to enter because of unbelief; rebellion; wrong attitudes; or unrepentant sin—would be “*Thrust out.*”

Those who meet the conditions to enter this city would *29* “*Come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.*”

When that day arrives, all God's children will be there—all who have met the conditions of having a trusting faith on the shed Blood of Christ for everything on this side of Heaven.

If we qualify to enter by trusting on the Atonement Blood of the cross concerning every issue of life, we will receive our inheritance promised to all God's children.

Jesus gave the definition of a child of God—*Matthew 5:9* “*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*” Bringing peace, not strife or contention, has great rewards—*Romans 8:17* “*If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.*”

God is concerned about everyone on earth; He wants people to repent, and He is patient until the last one does. The invitation is extended to every *one* of every *age, culture, nation, and tongue*. God is *2 Peter 3:9* “*Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” Everyone is invited, but not everyone responds to the invitation.

God is interested in how we live—that is why He wrote the Bible—so we could read and know what He is saying—explaining through words and examples how His Truth is lived. If anyone will respond—God will accept them—and *Luke 15:10* “*There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*”

It would be of no value to *know* about Heaven, if there was no way to enter it. God, however, invites us to become *citizens* of that celestial city—but we must *respond* in faith to the One who died to make it possible *Philippians 3:20* “*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Jesus came to earth to inform us of how to prepare for entering our eternal home. Revelation 22:14 *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”* We need to read and obey the teaching of the Bible. Colossians 3:13 *“The Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

To *qualify* we must *crucify* the flesh and its wrong desires. Romans 8:12 *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors [have an obligation], not to the flesh [sinful nature], to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify [crucify] the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”*

The believer in Christ can look forward to the new home—2 Peter 3:13 *“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”* This promise is a gift—it is free to all who live by faith in the Blood of the Lamb—for health and healing; peace and protection; provisions and a forgiving spirit toward everyone.

Hebrews 13:14 *“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”* All who meet the conditions and enter the city, will praise God for ever and ever—there is no harm in practicing a little while we are still here on earth.

Meeting the conditions means following the Word. He said Matthew 6:20 *“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven;”* because, 21 *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* It is a matter of sincerity of heart, and of being born again with a changed attitude toward everyone.

When we come up out of the waters of baptism, we come up with a *changed* heart—one that is willing to forgive anyone of anything—no matter how serious; or how unprovoked; or how unjust it was. Colossians 3:1 *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”*

We should ask if our conscience is defiled due to a wrong attitude toward someone. Those who do *not* enter are described—Revelation 21:27 *“There shall in no wise enter Into it any thing that defileth.”* No one *would* enter if their conscience was *defiled*—which can happen by resenting or holding hard feelings toward someone.

Heaven is only for those whose robes are washed in the Blood of the Lamb—those whose sins are forgiven by faith in the sacrifice of the cross. Our robes *are* washed if our conscience is *clear*—our sins *are* forgiven when we forgive those who have sinned against us.

A wrong attitude in our heart not only *disqualifies* us, but it can *disqualify* others. God’s grace forgives our sins; but that same forgiveness must be extended to everyone on our list of those who dislike us.

It is possible for someone to Hebrews 12:15 *“Fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.”*

Jesus told this parable Matthew 22:2 *“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways.”*

Matthew 22:8 *“Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. After finding many who would attend, the king came in to see the guests, and noticed one was not wearing proper attire.”*

Matthew 22:12 *“Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he*

*was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen”*—because all who enter must have a *clean* heart that is *forgiven* of all sin.

Few are *chosen*, because few meet the *conditions* for Heaven—a forgiven heart from a trusting faith in the Blood of Jesus. Nothing will enter that Revelation 21:27 *“Defiles, or causes an abomination or [makes] a lie.”*

No one should *miss* it, because it is a *choice* Mark 8:34 *“Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”* It is the *same* invitation Revelation 22:17 *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

Meeting the conditions of citizenship means having a *forgiven* heart that is *changed* in attitude—it is being reborn. Jesus said John 3:5 *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*

It is all a matter of *choosing* to believe and *choosing* to trust God for everything this side of Heaven. John 3:36 *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

All who enter are *citizens* by birth—the *new* birth of Christlike attitudes!



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