

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Thinking Like a Citizen of Heaven

Philippians 3:20-21

1967 - 2017



20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 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.





Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

- **But** our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

In strong contrast v. 19



Philippians 3:19

- Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.



Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

- **But Our** citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

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**Our is a plural pronoun
reminding us that we are
part of something much
larger than ourselves.**



Our

- Our Father; our heavenly Father
- Our Lord (73x); our God (20+x)
- Our Passover Lamb, Christ
- Our hearts
- Our gospel; our message
- Our Savior (9x)
- Our brother; our sister
- Our faith

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**To be a Christian is to be
PART of something
much larger than
yourself.**



We pray

- Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.¹⁰ Thy
kingdom come. Thy will be done
in earth, as *it is* in heaven.¹¹ Give
us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors.¹³ And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us
from evil:

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This “our” concept is why I think church membership is so important. Church membership reminds me that I am part of something bigger than myself. My membership is in a church because my citizenship is in heaven.





Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

•But our **citizenship** is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

πολίτευμα

Transliteration

politeuma

Pronunciation

po-lē'-tyü-mä (Key)

**Part of Speech**

neuter noun

Root Word (Etymology)

From πολιτεύομαι (G4176)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 6:516,906

KJV Translation Count — Total: 1x

The KJV translates Strong's G4175 in the following manner: [conversation](#) (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. the administration of civil affairs or of a commonwealth
- II. the constitution of a commonwealth, form of government and the laws by which it is administered
- III. a state, commonwealth
 - A. the commonwealth of citizens

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

πολίτευμα políteuma, pol-it'-yoo-mah; from G4176; a community, i.e. (abstractly) citizenship (figuratively):—conversation.

politeuma



**a politically organized
community or major territorial
unit having a monarchial form
of government headed by a king
or queen**

Merriam-Webster

What is this the definition of?



John 18:36

- Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.**

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Kingdom in the NT

- Kingdom of God (67x)
- Kingdom of heaven (32x)
- Kingdom of our Lord
- Kingdom of His beloved Son
- Kingdom of Christ and God

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Citizen

- 1 : an inhabitant of a city or town; especially: one entitled to the rights and privileges of a freeman**
- 2 a : a member of a state**
b : a native or naturalized person who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to protection from it

Merriam-Webster



1 Peter 2:9

- But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

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Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

- **But our citizenship is in heaven,**

**in contrast to
v. 18 & 19**

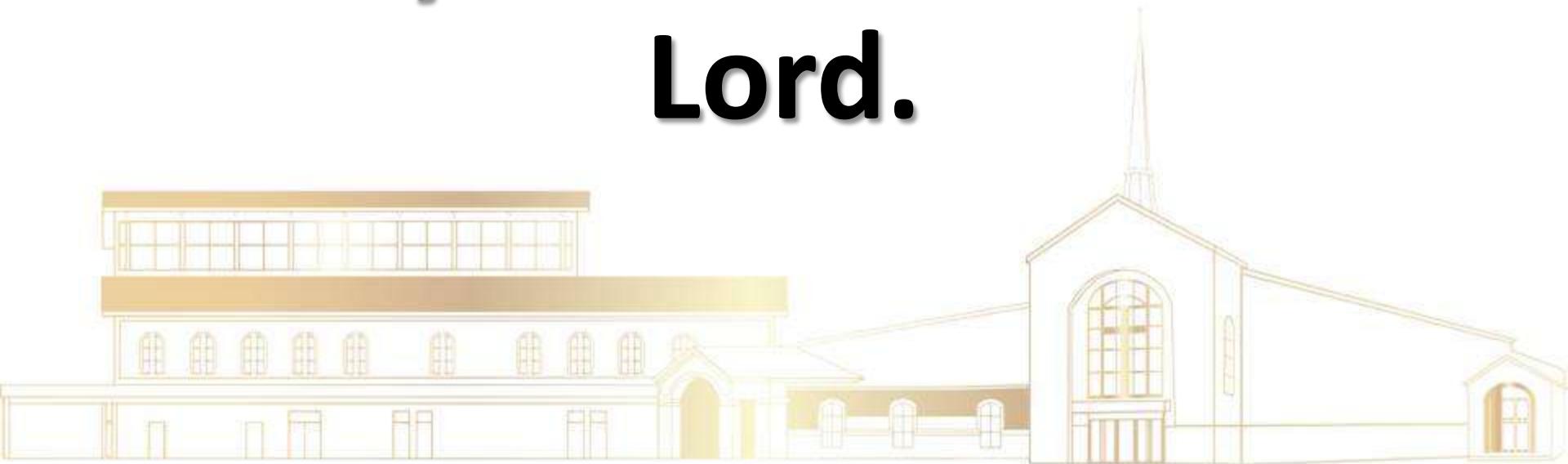
**But you say you have never
been there—that is true.**



- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

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**We embrace the cross
of Christ and are willing
carry our cross for our
Lord.**

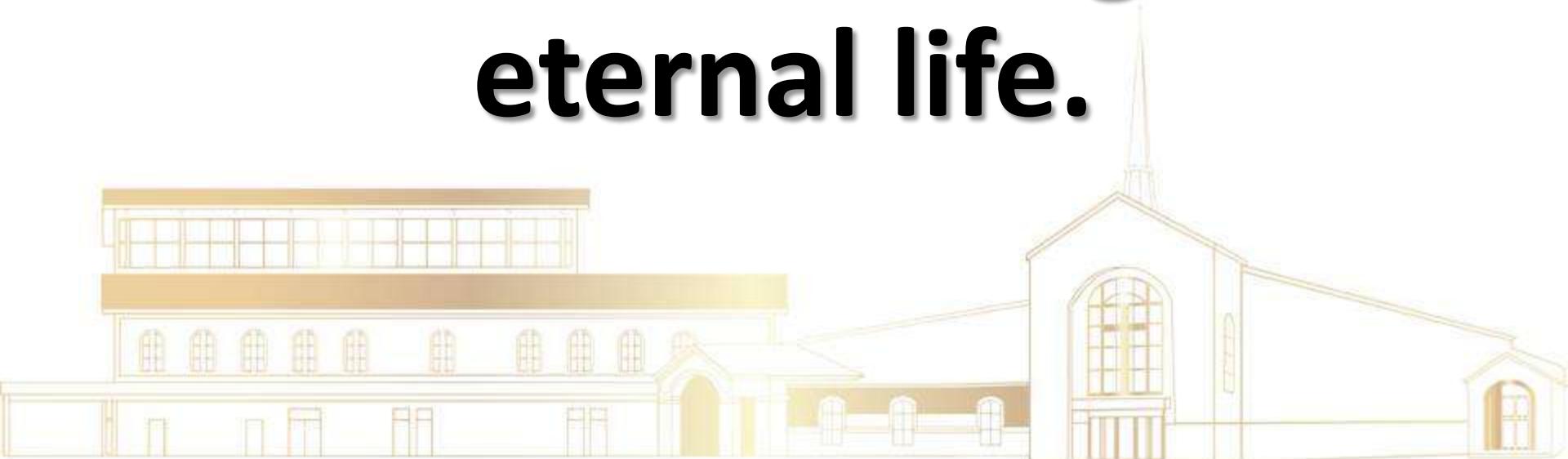




- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- **Their end is destruction,**

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**We have been saved
from an end of
destruction and given
eternal life.**

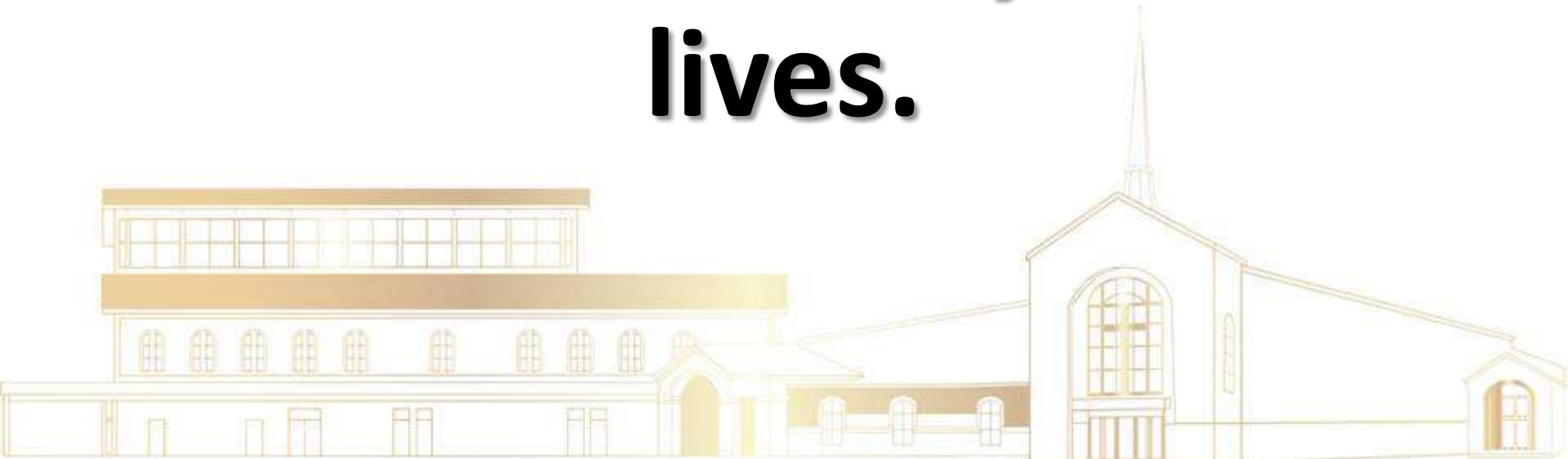




- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Their end is destruction,
- **their god is their belly,**

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**Our God is the Lord and
we seek to destroy any
form of idolatry in our
lives.**

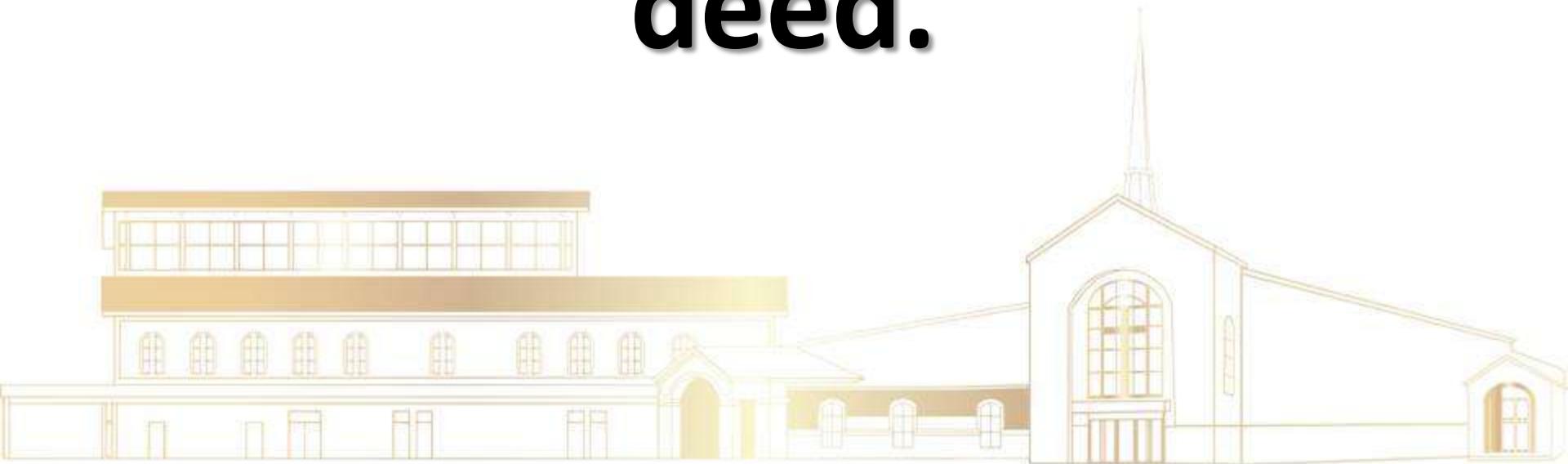




- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Their end is destruction,
- their god is their belly, and
- **they glory in their shame,**

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**We praise and honor
God in both word and
deed.**



- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Their end is destruction,
- their god is their belly, and
- they glory in their shame,
- **with minds set on earthly things.**

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**We strive to think
differently with an
eternal or heavenly
mindset.**



Let me show you a
parallel text

Colossians 3:1-4

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Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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Your mindset
matters to Paul look
back at
Philippians 2:5



- **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶
who, though he was in the form of
God, did not count equality with
God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but
emptied himself, by taking the
form of a servant, being born in
the likeness of men.

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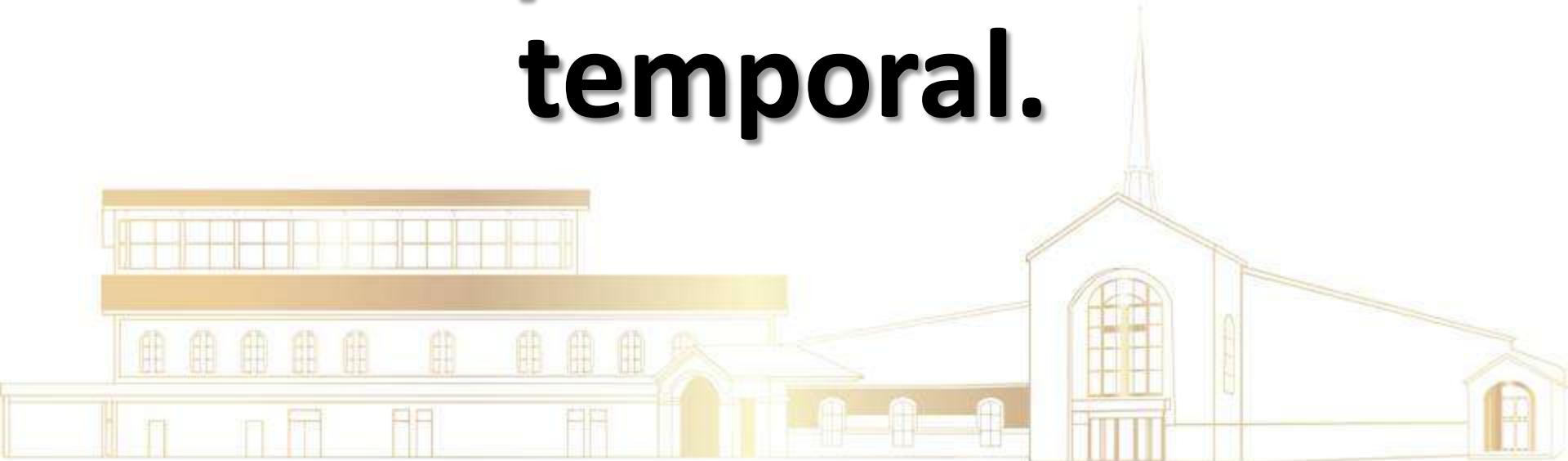


**What does it mean
to have a mind set
on heavenly
things?**



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Most Importantly
Eternal is more
important than
temporal.



Mark 8:36

- For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

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Look at the
promise in

v. 21



Philippians 3:21 (ESV)

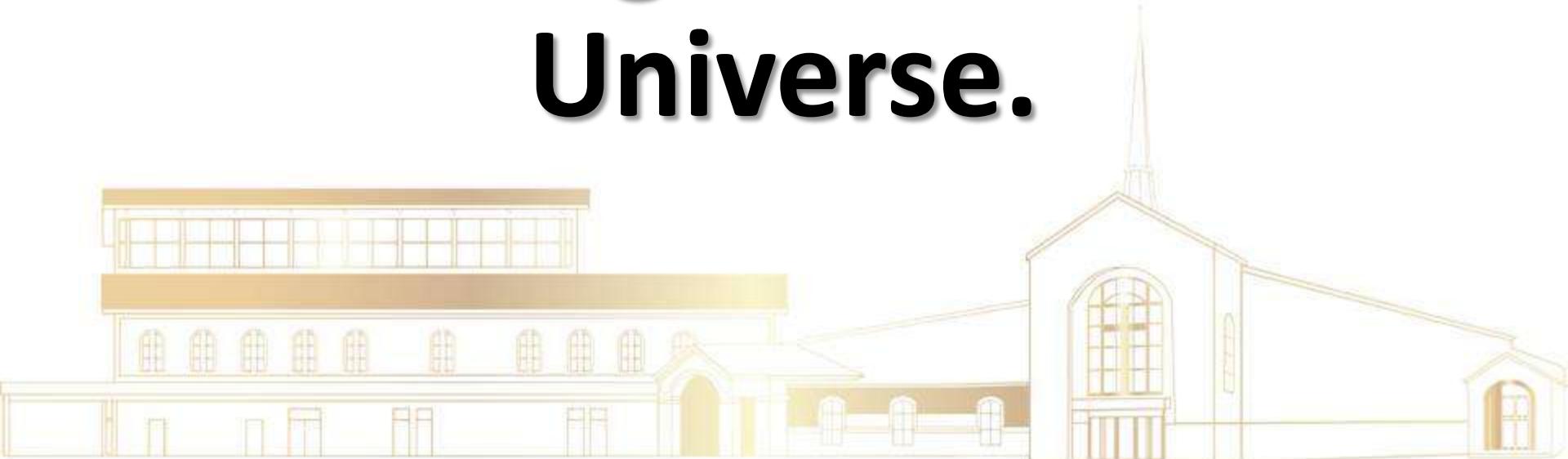
- who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

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**Jesus Christ is the Son
of God and the
Sovereign Lord of the
Universe.**



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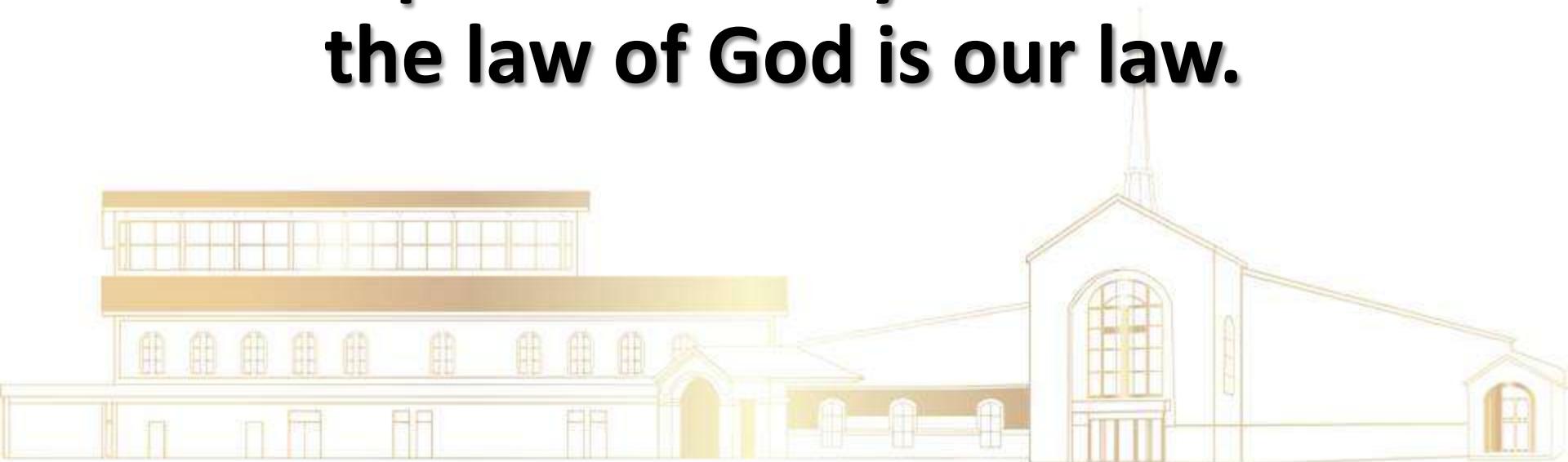
**All humans are image
bearers of God and
possess souls. Race does NOT
determine how we think of
someone.**



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**Ultimately, our law is
the law of Christ.**

**We respect and obey civil law—but
the law of God is our law.**



Mark 12:30-31

- And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. ³¹ And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

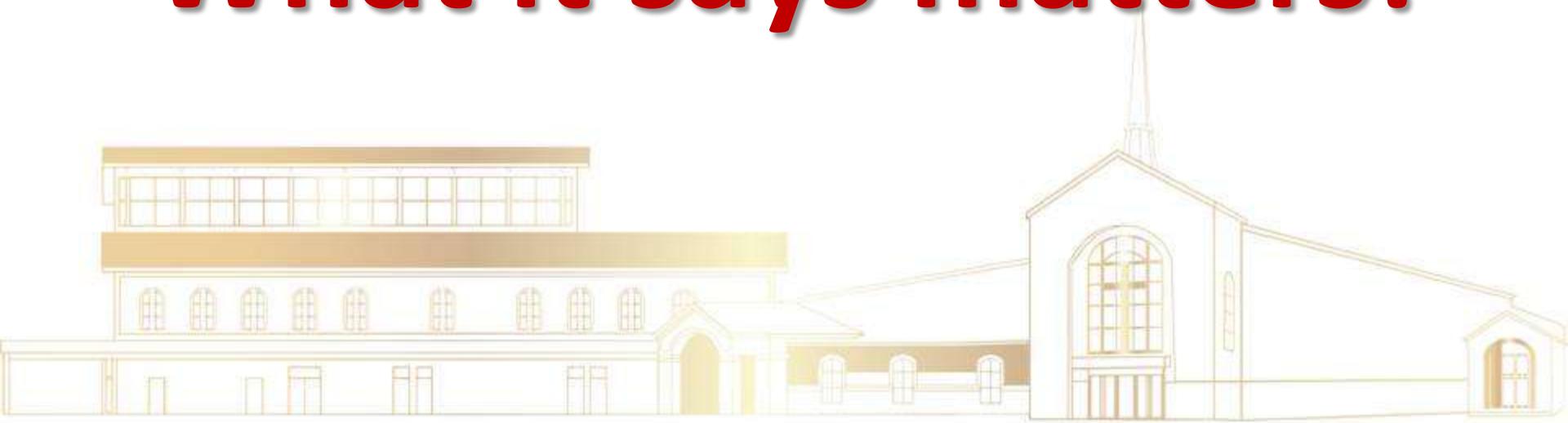
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**We know the Bible is
the Word of God.**

What it says matters!



2 Timothy 3:16

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

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**Our minds are more
focused on the state of
the church than our
nation.**



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Heaven is Real!
Hell is Real.
Spiritual warfare exists.



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**Gender is decided by
God. He is the creator of
each and every human being.**



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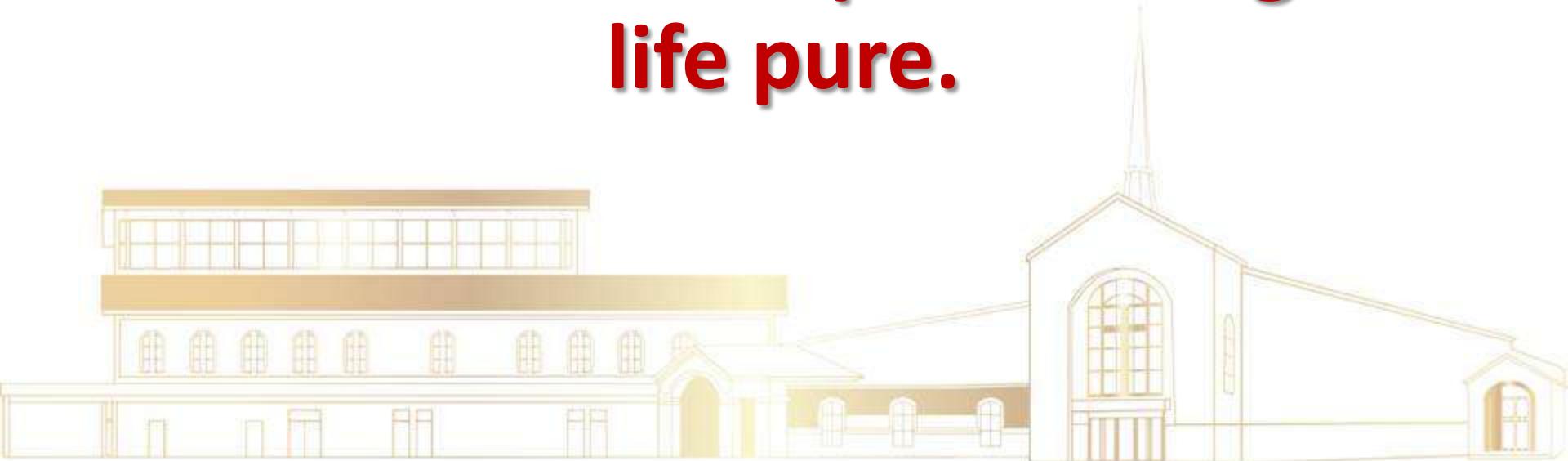
**Marriage is Permanent.
It is a picture of Christ and the
Church. It can only consist of 1
man and 1 woman.**



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**Personal holiness is a
priority.**

**We strive to keep our thought
life pure.**



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**Children are a gift from
God to be cherished.**

**You believe abortion is
NOT a woman's right.**



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**Talents, time, and
treasure are all gifts
from God to be
stewarded.**



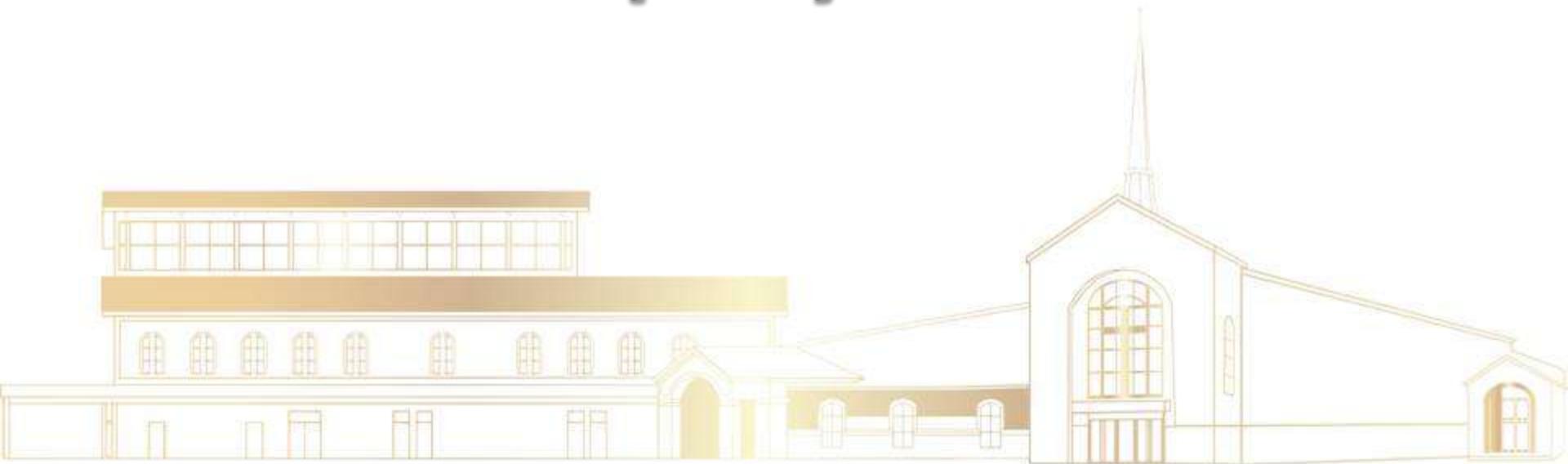
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**The purpose of life is to
glorify God and enjoy
Him forever.**



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**Prayer is powerful. We
pray...**



**“Our Father in heaven, hallowed
be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this
day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive
us our debts, as we also have
forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead
us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil.**



2 Timothy 4:18

- And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

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2 Peter 1:11

- For **so an entrance** shall be ministered unto you abundantly **into the everlasting kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Colossians 1:13

- Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, **and hath**

translated us
into the kingdom of his
dear Son:

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At this point,
you may be asking
how do I acquire
citizenship in such a
kingdom?



You must be
saved.

You must be
born from
above.





Phil 3:20 (ESV)

- **But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**



Luke 2:11

•For unto you is born this
day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the
Lord.



Matthew 1:21

•She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”



John 3:16-17

- **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world **might be saved through him.****

Now Look

back @

v. 18





Philippians 3:18 (ESV)

- For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as **enemies** of the cross of Christ.

Don't be an enemy of the cross.

Instead
embrace the
cross of Christ.



On the Cross Christ

- Died for the sins of humanity
- Appeased the wrath of God
- Shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins
- Made atonement for all who would believe
- Said, “It is finished!”

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1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

- For the **word of the cross** is folly to those who are perishing,
- **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

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Galatians 1:3-4

- Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ, **Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:**

1967 - 2017





Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

- Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.