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# Thinking Like a Citizen of Heaven

Philippians 3:20-21



**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.**



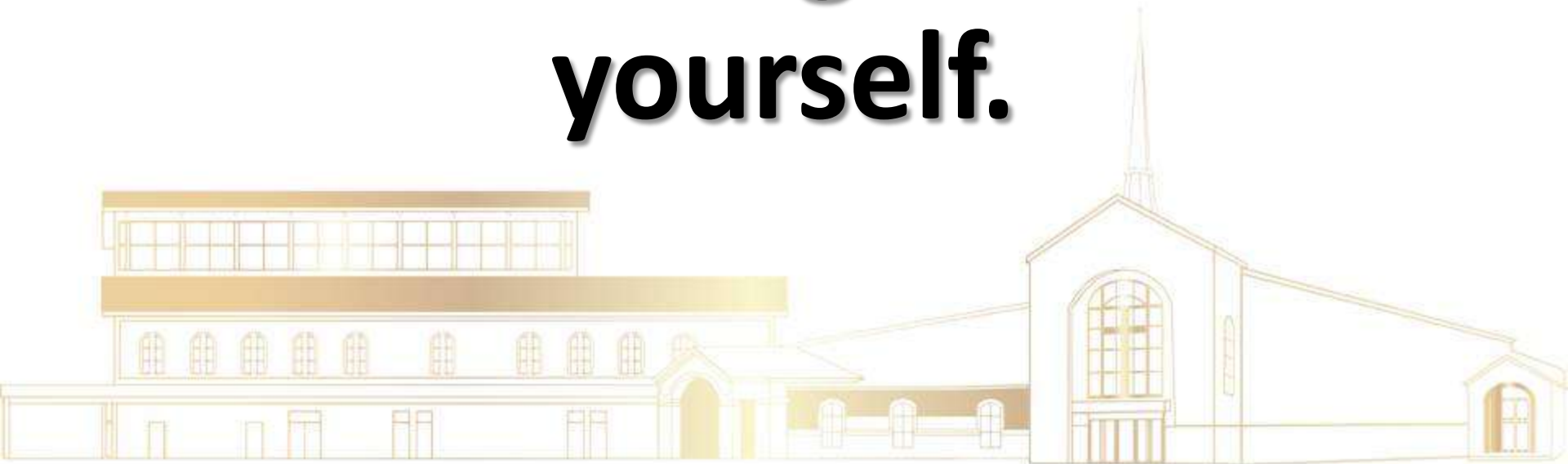
# Our

- 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. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give **us** this day **our** daily bread. And forgive **us our** debts, as **we** forgive **our** debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil:



**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 politeuma, 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 monarchical 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.**



# 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





# 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:



# Philippians 3:20 (ESV)



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

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

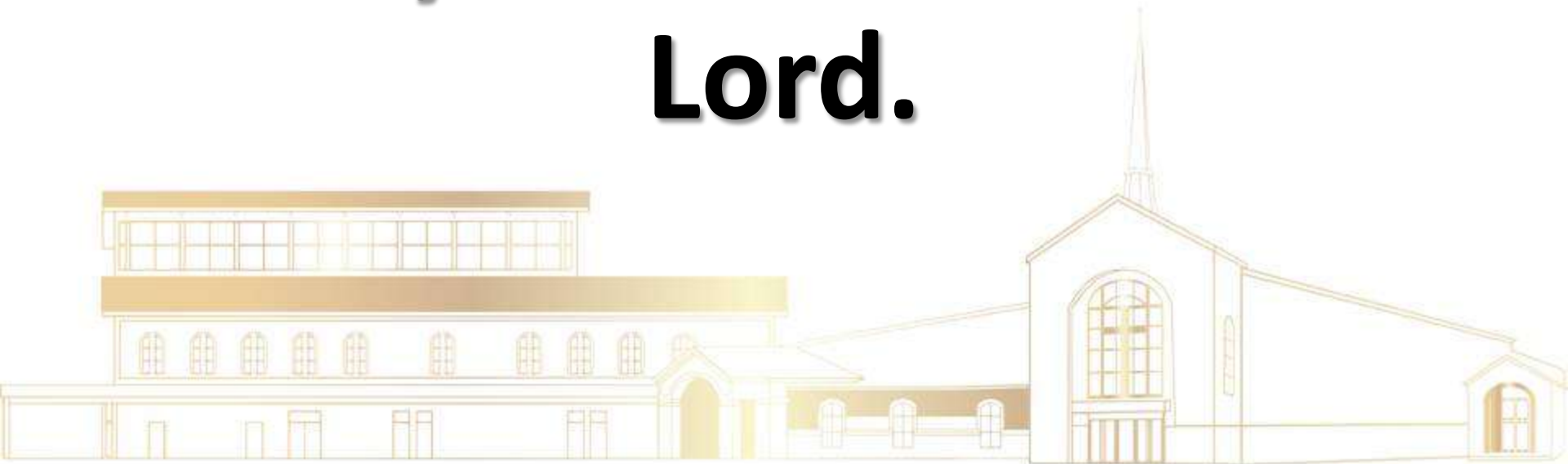
**But you say you have never  
been there—that is true.**



- 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.**

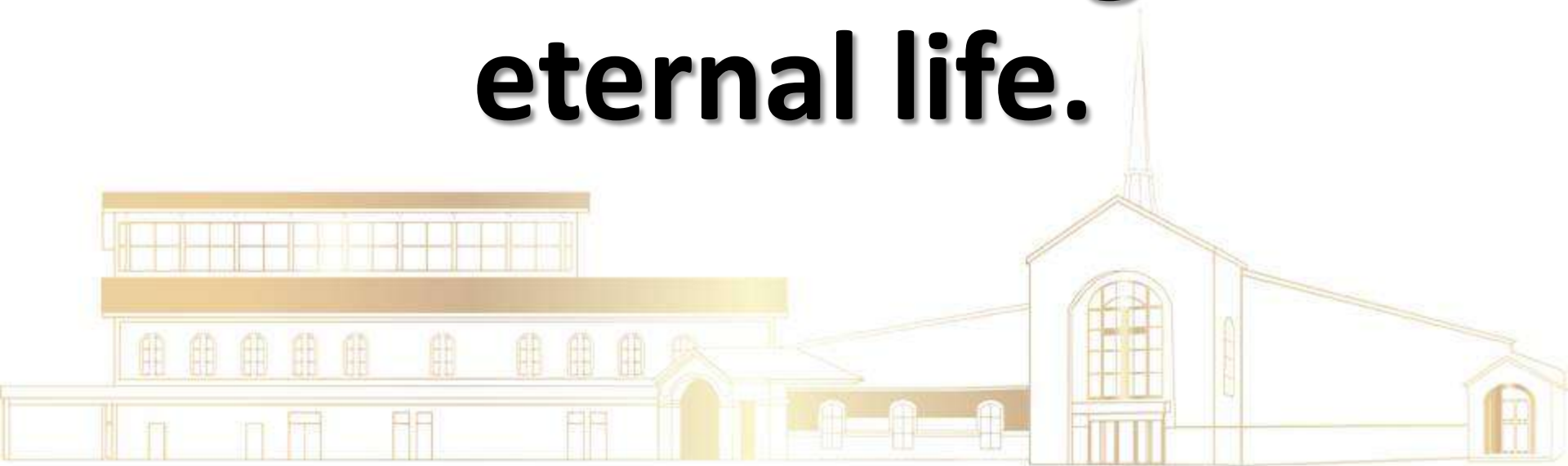




- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- **Their end is destruction,**

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



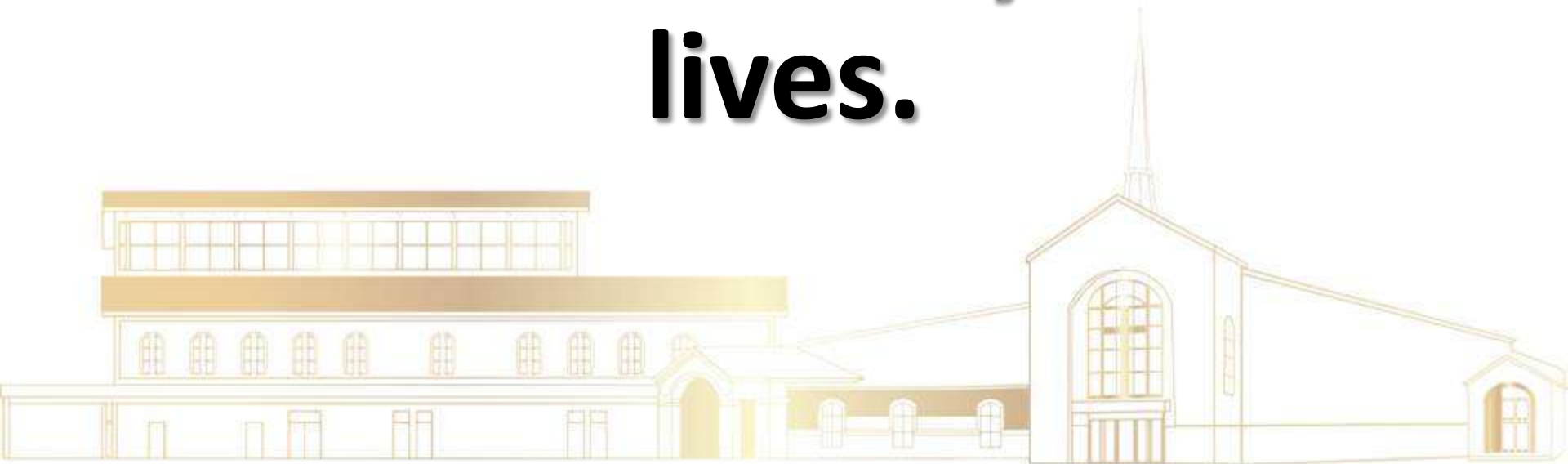


- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Their end is destruction,
- **their god is their belly,**



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

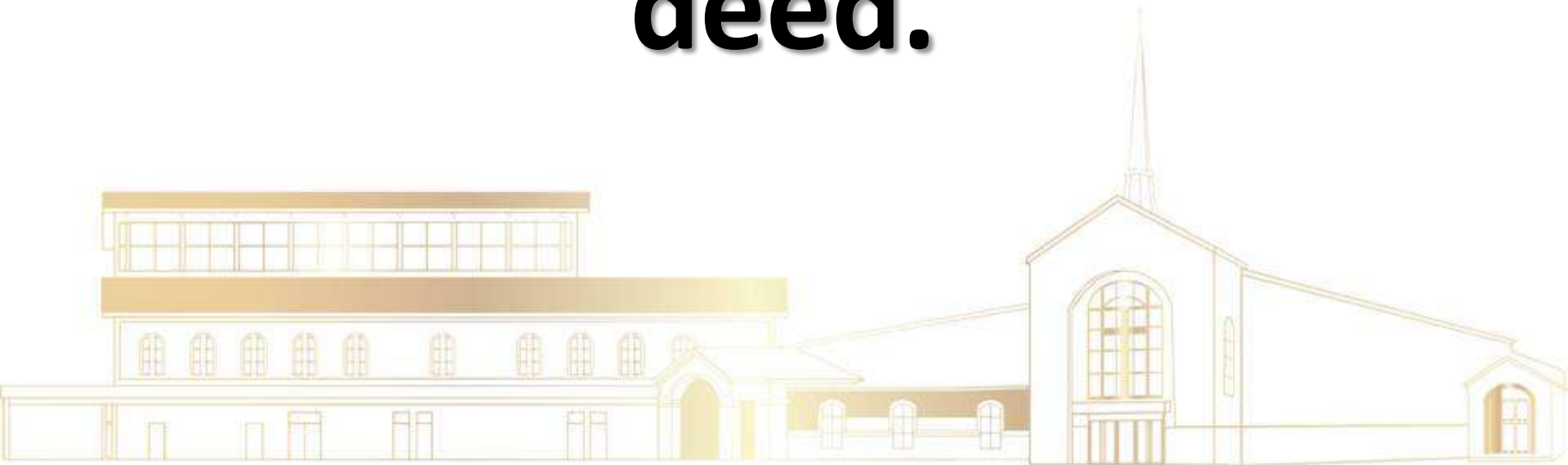




- walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- Their end is destruction,
- their god is their belly, and
- **they glory in their shame,**

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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



# 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.



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





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

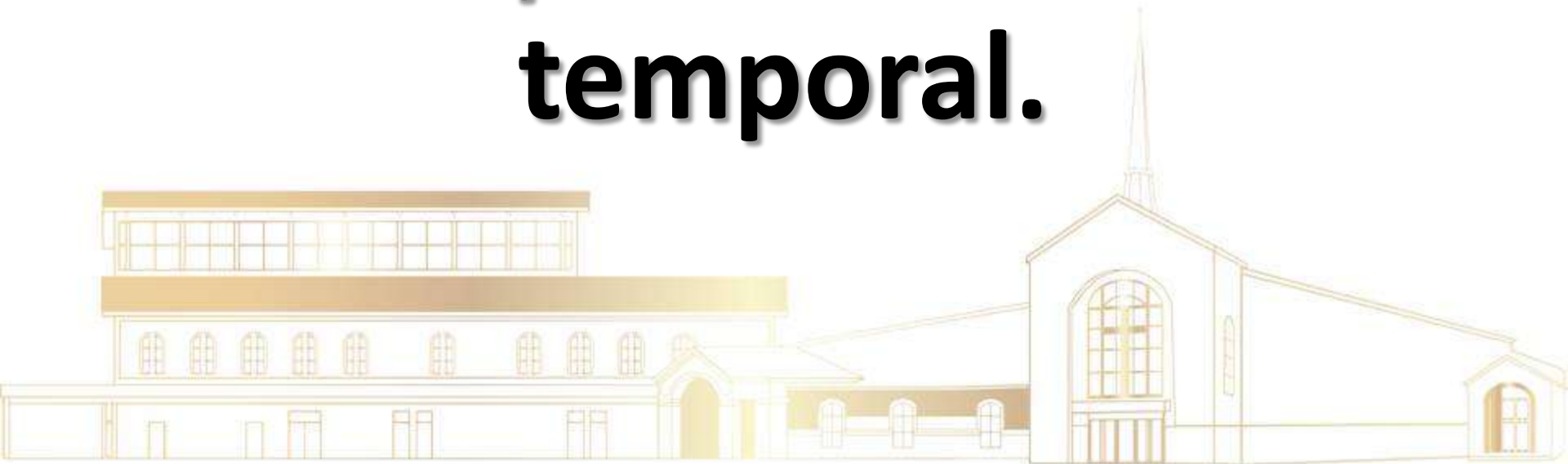


**What does it mean  
to have a mind set  
on heavenly  
things?**



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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?



**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.



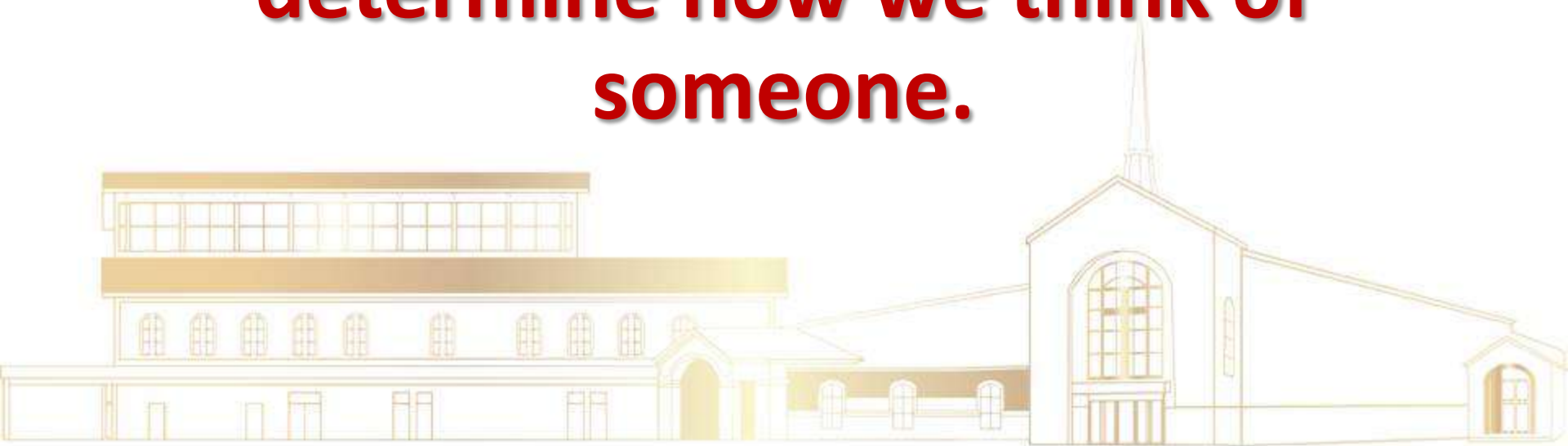
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**Jesus Christ is the Son  
of God and the  
Sovereign Lord of the  
Universe.**



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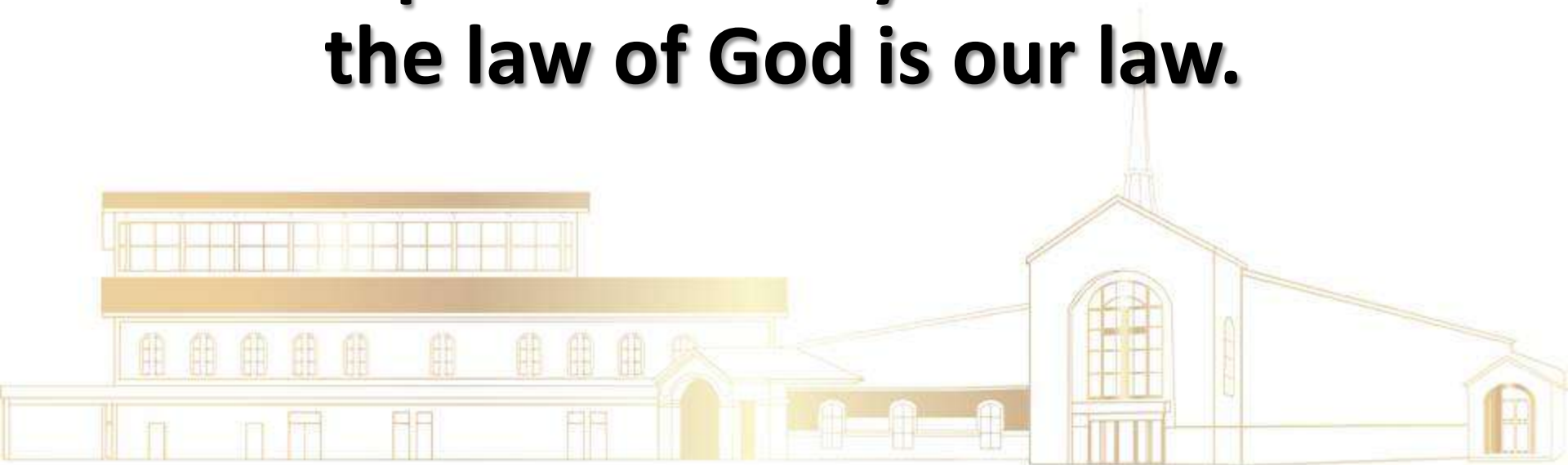
**All humans are image  
bearers of God and  
possess souls. Race does NOT  
determine how we think of  
someone.**





**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

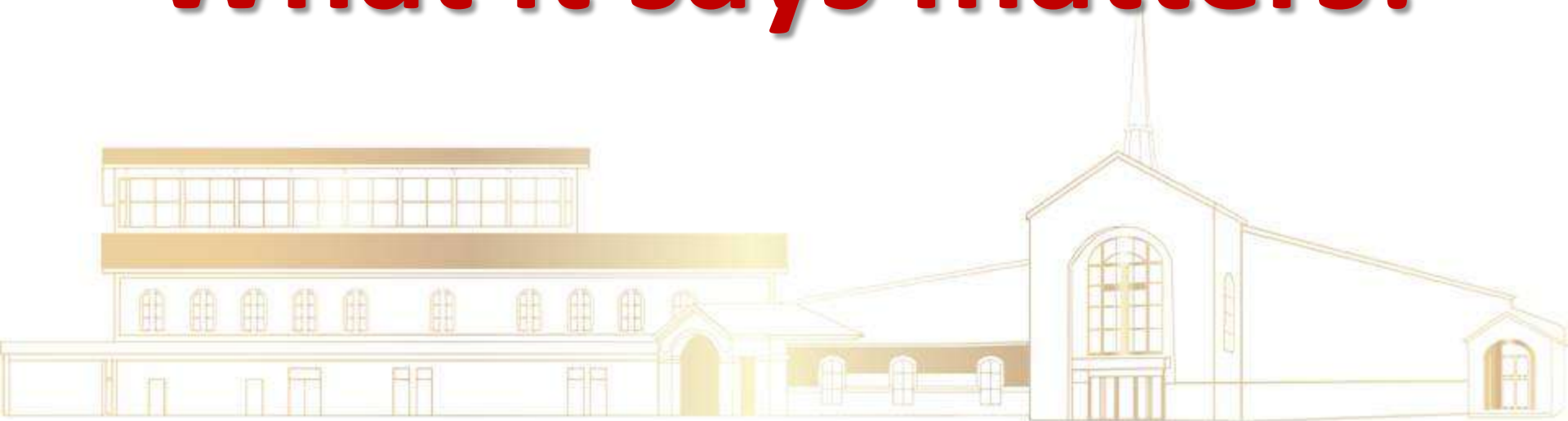
- And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. <sup>31</sup> And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater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



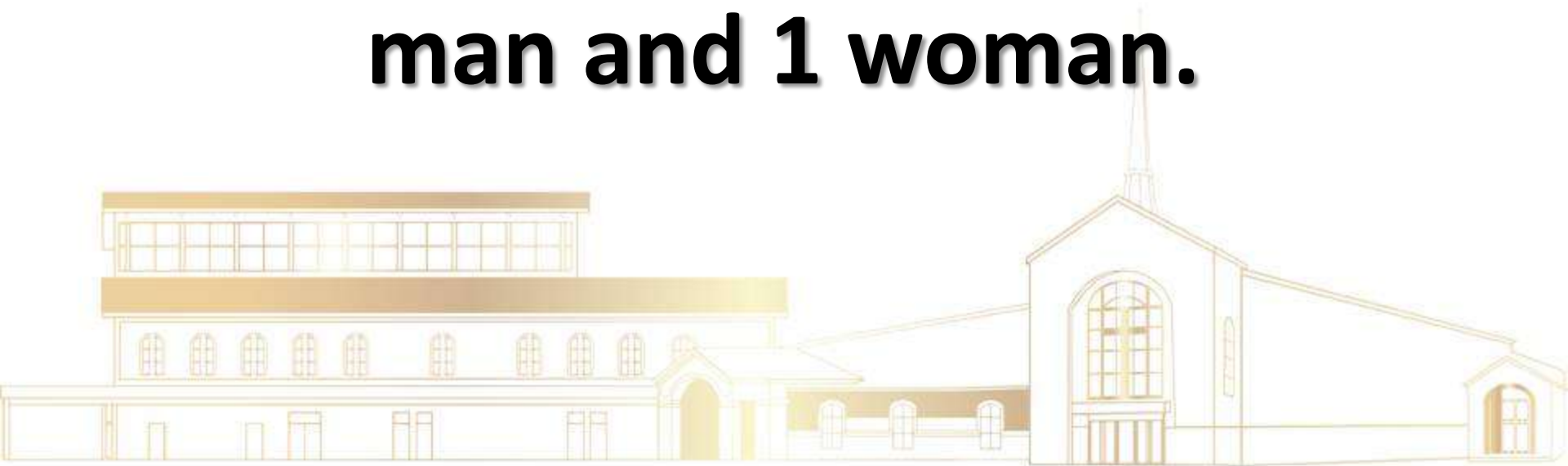
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**Gender is decided by  
God. He is the creator of  
each and every human being.**





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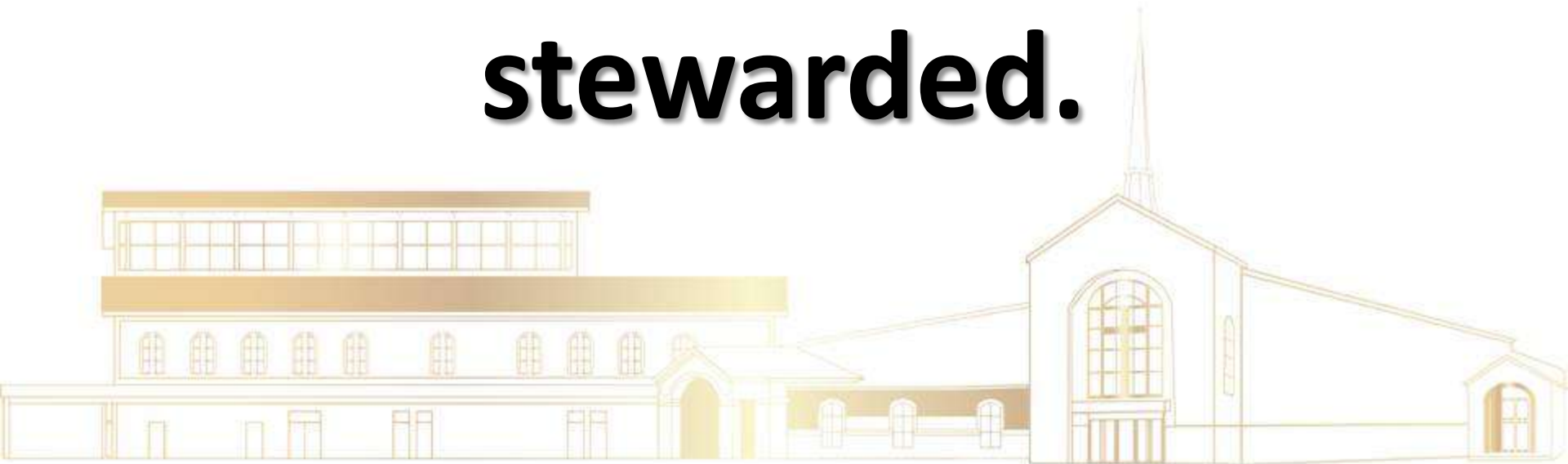
**Children are a gift from  
God to be cherished.**

**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.**



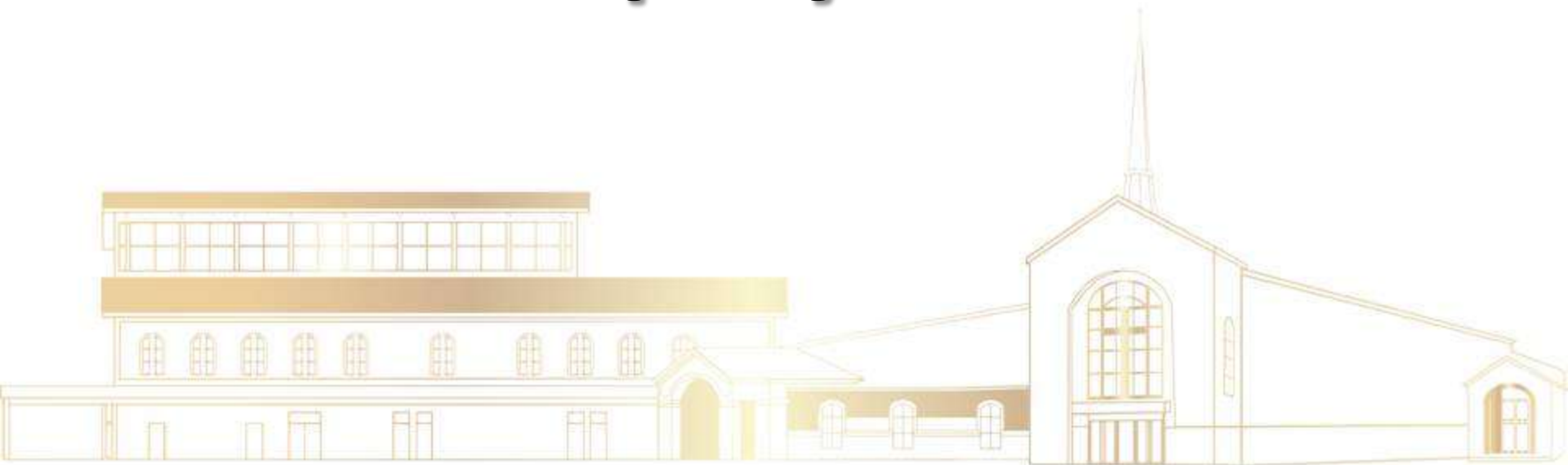
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**The purpose of life is to  
glorify God and enjoy  
Him forever.**



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



**“Our Father in heaven, hallowed  
be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on earth  
as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this  
day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup> and forgive  
us our debts, as we also have  
forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> 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.



# 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.





# Colossians 1:13

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

translated *us*

into the kingdom of his dear Son:



**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!”



# 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.**



# 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:**



# 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.