

April 6, 2014 by Steve Brandon



Set Your Minds On Heavenly Things

Philippians 3:20-21

1. Our Home is in Heaven (verse 20a)
2. Our Hope is in Christ (verses 20b-21)

A few weeks ago, I was meeting with Ryan B. We were talking about my upcoming texts and music to sing during our services. I talked with him about Philippians 3:20, which speaks about heaven. I said, "It would be great if we could sing some songs about heaven." And so, we got to thinking. And not very many songs were coming into our minds.

So, we pulled out our hymnal and looked up the songs it contains about heaven. We found a dozen or so songs in our hymnal that talk about heaven. But, for the most part, they were pretty dated in their styles. And they aren't sung very much today. As we searched a bit more, we found it difficult to find some modern worship songs written about heaven. Now, having said that, you may well be thinking of some songs in your head right now to show us wrong. And that's OK. But, here's my contention. I would contend that we in America, for the most part, aren't thinking too much about heaven. People aren't writing about it. People aren't singing about it.

Now, I know that this is hyperbole. Yes, books are being written about heaven today. I think of Randy Alcorn, who wrote an excellent book, simply entitled, "Heaven." It's the best thing that I have ever read on the subject. I commend it to you. It is in our church library.

So, I'm not saying that there's nothing being written about heaven in our day and age. But, I would contend that it's in the minor key. It's not our emphasis. John Piper said it this way, "I don't know your backgrounds. I don't know your health condition right now. I don't know the relationships you have right now. You have all tasted some suffering. But mainly probably we in America know suffering by watching it. We live in a Disneyland compared to the rest of the world. America is a place of one mammoth luxury." [\[1\]](#)

I think that Piper is right on. In America, we know little about "poverty." What we call "poverty" other nations would consider "riches." In America, we know little about "persecution." What we call "persecution" other nations would consider "calling you names." In America, we know little about "hardships." What we call "hardships," other nations would consider normal life.

In America, all of us have electricity, indoor plumbing, a washing machine, an oven, and probably even a dishwasher. There are many living today who don't have all of these things. We live in such pleasure and such ease today that, our longing for heaven is small. Contrast that with longings of the black slaves in America. Life was absolutely miserable for them. And so, they looked for the coming day, when they would enjoy the pleasures of heaven, rather than the sufferings of earth.

One writer said it this way: "Negro Spirituals - clear forerunners of Gospel music - were originally known as "Corn ditties" and they were sung after working hours in or outside the plantation Praise House. The Spirituals fell roughly into two types, those which worshipped God and looked forward to heaven and those which described their working conditions - usually in a religious context." [\[2\]](#) In other words, half of their songs were about going to heaven.

Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home..

I looked over Jordan and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home
A band of angels coming after me
Coming for to carry me home

That's talking about Christ coming and taking me home to heaven. But, we, in America know little of the suffering. And so, we know little of the longing for a better place, because we have it pretty good.

I remember John MacArthur telling the story of the time that he was preaching in the Soviet Union. The story went something like this. He went over there to teach some pastors for about a week. Throughout the week, he did what he does best -- he taught them the Bible. I'm sure that he went from passage to passage to passage of the Bible, teaching the Russian pastors about the Scripture and God and Christ and salvation and the church and leadership and preaching. And after a few days of teaching, one man raised his hand and said, "When are we going to get to the good stuff?" Confused, MacArthur replied, "What do you mean by the good stuff?," thinking that he had been talking about "the good stuff" for several days already. And this Russian pastor replied, "I mean the stuff about heaven."

I tell the story simply to illustrate how little we think about heaven. Well, this morning, we are going to think about heaven.

Our text today covers the last two verses in chapter 3 of Philippians -- verses 20 and 21.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

These words are in contrast to the last words of verse 19. In describing those who are living for the here and now, Paul writes, ...

Philippians 3:19

whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

By contrast, Paul sets out the manner of life of the believer. He writes that they aren't earth-bound. Rather, they are heavenly-minded. They have a home in heaven. They have a hope in Christ.

The title of my message this morning comes from the opposite of verse 19. In verse 19, we see the error of some. "They set their minds on earthly things." This morning, my exhortation to you is to, "Set Your Minds on Heavenly Things." In fact, this is the title of my message this morning: "Set Your Minds on Heavenly Things."

This is a Biblical command. "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). And this morning, we will let Philippians, chapter 3:20-21 guide our thoughts heavenward. Let's look at my first point.

1. Our Home is in Heaven (verse 20a)

I trust that you can see it right there in the first part of verse 20, ...

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven.

Now, these words would have been particularly impactful for those in Philippi. Although Philippi was several hundred miles away from Rome, those in Philippi had a special allegiance to Rome. In fact, the city was a Roman colony, one of the most influential in all of Macedonia (Acts 16:12). For the most part, they adopted Roman dress. They had also adopted Roman customs. And they were under Roman law.

For instance, do you remember what took place in Philippi when Paul first came to the city? The story is told in Acts 16.

There was a disturbance in the city because Paul had cast the demon out of a slave girl who was able to tell the future. Her owners didn't like this too much, as their potential for profit was gone. And so, "they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities" (Acts 16:19). And they began to slander them, saying, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans" (Acts 16:20-21).

You can hear their loyalty right there! "We are Romans!" But, these men were from Philippi. How could they say that they were Romans? Rome was hundreds of miles away. They may never have been to Rome. How could they say that they were Romans? Because, they were a Roman colony. And they had every right to be called "Romans," just as much as those from Hawaii have every right to call themselves, "American."

And as the narrative progresses in the book of Acts, you can see the implications of this. It means that they are under Roman rule. They need to do things according to Roman laws. Anyway, when the chief magistrates heard the case, they ordered them "to be beaten with rods" and thrown into prison (Acts 16:22). And so, they "struck them with many blows" and subsequently threw them into prison (Acts 16:23-24).

I trust you know the rest of the story. I have told you on several occasions as we have worked our way through the book of Philippians. They were in prison, singing "hymns of praise to God" (Acts 16:25). All the while, the jailer was observing their joy despite their circumstances. And when there was an earthquake and the prisoners didn't escape, the jailer said to Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" (Phil. 16:30). Of course, the answer came, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). And he did that very night.

But, the next day, the magistrates came and told the policemen, "Release those men" (Acts 16:35). We can only surmise that they had somehow gathered a full account of what happened with Paul and Silas in the market place the day before, and they determined that they were not as guilty as they appeared to be the night before.

But, Paul refused to leave the prison.

Acts 16:37-38

Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out. The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.

They were afraid because they were under the Roman rule and customs in Philippi. In Rome, they would never beat a Roman citizen without a trial. But, these were visitors. Who was to know that they were Roman citizens?

Do you remember when Paul was arrested in Jerusalem by a Roman soldier? The soldier was about to scourge him. Paul said, "Is it lawful for

you to scourge a man who is a Roman and condemned?" (Acts 22:25). At which point they had a discussion and news got back to the commander of the soldier. And we read, "The commander ... was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains" (Acts 22:29). Likewise, here in Philippi, those who had beaten Paul and imprisoned him were afraid, lest news get back to Rome about what happened because they were a Roman colony.

Those in Philippi fully knew what it was like to be a citizen of a far-away place. Yes, they lived in Philippi. But, living in a Roman colony, they were citizens in Rome. And that's exactly what we see here in Philippians 3:20, ...

Philippians 3:20
For our citizenship is in heaven.

Only, the comparison here isn't merely earthly. Rather, it's heavenly. Yes, we live on the earth. Yes, living as followers of Christ, we are citizens of heaven. Or, as I have put it, Our Home is in Heaven (verse 20a). We have, if you will, dual citizenship. We are all citizens of America. And, for those of us who have trusted in Christ, we have citizenship in heaven as well.

In preparation for my message this morning, I was listening to a message of a friend of mine who has been ministering in a seminary in Kiev, Ukraine for about 15 years. He was explaining about the tension his oldest son has experienced. When they initially left the United States for Ukraine, his son was old enough to have some friends here in the states. Initially, he went through some growing pains, remembering his friends and remembering what things were like back home.

And yet, after a few years, he became accustomed to his new home in Kiev. He gained some new friends. He became accustomed to the way of life in Kiev. And whenever he comes back to America, he has the same feelings as when he left in the first place. And he's torn, not really knowing where his home is. Is it here in America, where he was born and spent his early years? Or, is it in Ukraine, where he has spent the majority of his life?

In some regards, this is our situation. We are citizens here on earth. We ought to live as examples in our society of model citizens. We read in Romans 13:1, "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." But, when it comes to our ultimate citizenship, it is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20
For our citizenship is in heaven.

And if that is where our citizenship is, we ought to live as if that is the case. We ought to live as if heaven is our home.

One of those negro spiritual songs goes like this, "This world is not my home; I'm just a passin' through." And so, our minds ought to be upon our homeland.

In Hebrews 3:1, the writer addresses his readers with the phrase, "Holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling." That is, you have been called by heaven and into heaven. In Hebrews 11, the writer speaks about Abraham and Sarah, who left their homeland, seeking another. During their days upon the earth, they were "strangers and exiles" (Hebrews 11:13). But, they were looking for a country of their own (Hebrews 11:14). And in Hebrews 11, he argues this. "And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return" (Hebrews 11:15).

In other words, if they were seeking an earthly homeland, they could very easily have returned to Ur of the Chaldeans. That was the country that they left before being called to Canaan (Genesis 12:31). So, he concludes, "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:16). Even Sarah and Abraham knew that this world was not their home; "... and we are just a passin' through."

Everyone knows this. I received the most recent edition of Time magazine. Right here on pages 10 and 11, they have a full-page spread of a picture of cherry blossoms, pretty white trees in full bloom. And Time magazine says this, "After an especially harsh winter, clouds of cherry blossoms burst from trees in Tokyo on March 31. In Japan, the brevity of the one-to-two week blossom season has sometimes served as a symbolic reminder that human life is brief as well." [\[3\]](#)

The Psalms say the same thing.

Psalms 103:15-16
As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
When the wind has passed over it, it is no more,
And its place acknowledges it no longer.

Now, the big question is this. Is your citizenship in heaven? Or, are all of your eggs in the earthly basket? See, in Philippians 3, Paul is making this contrast. There are those who are earthly-minded. And their citizenship is not in heaven! And there are those who are heavenly-minded. Those are the ones of verse 20, whose citizenship is in heaven. Where is your citizenship?

What makes someone a citizen of the United States? I did a little research. According to the 14th amendment of the constitution of the United States of America, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." In other words, if you were born in the United States, and if you are subject to the governing

authorities, you are a citizen of our great country.

And so, likewise, to be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, you must be born into that kingdom.

This is the very image that Jesus used with Nicodemus. Do you remember when he came to Jesus by night? Jesus said, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Or, more literally, "Unless one is born 'from above' he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). You only enter the kingdom of heaven if you have participated in a heavenly birth -- God coming into your life and radically changing you, giving you a new heart and new desires to serve Him.

And so, in reality, all of us enter the kingdom of heaven having been born the first time on earth. In other words, we all come into the kingdom not by right, but by immigration.

Let's again think of becoming a U. S. Citizen, because the parallel is good. How does a foreigner become a citizen? Again, I did some research. I found a nice website that outlined it in eight steps. [\[4\]](#)

- Step 1: Find out if you are eligible
- Step 2: Complete an application and collect the necessary documents
- Step 3: Get Photographed
- Step 4: Send your application, documents, and fee to the Service Center
- Step 5: Get Fingerprinted
- Step 6: Be Interviewed
- Step 7: Receive a decision
- Step 8: Take the oath and become a citizen

In other words, you present your request to the government (filling out the proper application, being photographed and fingerprinted). You present your desires to the government, who interviews you and tests you on your English skills and basic knowledge of our history and our government. When you are accepted, you take "The Oath of Allegiance" to become a citizen.

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;
that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;
that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;
that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;
that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;
and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

When coming to be a citizen of heaven, it is similar. You renounce your former life, in which you lived. You willingly place yourself under the rule of God. He's the one who rules and reigns in heaven. You gladly uphold His word, the Bible, believing and following its truths in your life. You are ready and willing to fight for the kingdom, in whatever way the Lord calls you to fight. You will work for the building up of the kingdom.

And so, I ask you: Have you placed yourself into glad submission to His decrees? Are you walking in His ways?

Isn't that the idea of the Philippians? They were a Roman colony. Their citizenship was in Rome, hundreds of miles away. Their loyalty was to Rome. They gladly bowed to Caesar. They sought for the expanse of the Roman Empire. And here in Philippians 3, God's ways are clear.

Philippians 3:3
we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

It's not the righteous deeds that we do that give us hope. Rather, it's Christ dying on our behalf to give us His righteousness.

Philippians 3:9
and may be found in Him, no having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

That's how the loyal subjects of God's kingdom live -- not trusting in their own works, but in the work of Christ on their behalf. So, are you praying for the expanse of God's kingdom? Are you praying for His rule?

Remember how Jesus taught us to pray? "Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10).

Such will be the prayers of His loyal citizens. Are you fighting His battles? Are you fighting with His weapons of war? Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Paul said, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). Where is your

citizenship? Are you setting your mind upon the things above? Or, are you thinking of things upon the earth?

I have a friend, who is into all things earthly. He loves his toys. He loves his bank accounts. He loves his security and pleasures.

And he's really concerned about the ways of our country, and how we are going downhill. And I agree with him. Things are going downhill. The national debt is a looming problem for our country. The national immorality will incur the wrath of God upon us. Our society is becoming increasingly secular. God is being systematically being removed from our society. Statues, plaques, pictures, curriculum, oaths, public prayers -- they are all going away.

Well, my friend is really concerned about all of these things. I mean really concerned. Because, he sees how our nation is crumbling and is crushed. He so wants our nation to do better.

If you think it's bad for us today, it was far worse for Christians in the first century. The hostility toward Christians was so great, that many of them would be thrown to be eaten by lions in a matter of a few years.

And here's the interesting thing. As I have dealt with my friend on these matters. I have agreed with almost everything that he has said. I think that it's terrible. I think that it's awful. I wish that it wasn't happening. I want to do my part to see things go a better way. But, my response to him has always been this. "When bad times come upon our society, it is good for the church." "When things are difficult, the church will flourish." "Now, I don't wish any of these things to come upon our society, but, I'm not worried about them, because God's kingdom will do just fine."

And studying this text, it really hit me. His citizenship is here upon the earth. He's all concerned about the prosperity of this nation. I'm not so concerned, because I have another citizenship. My citizenship is in heaven. And that's where my hope is. That's where my expectation lies.

And so, I'm sure that my response is often met with bewilderment. "Why are you so interested in the church." But, the church is where I receive my joy. I cheer when the kingdom of heaven flourishes. In many ways, I have a healthy ambivalence to the kingdom upon the earth. Is that your hope? Is that your perspective?

It all has to do with where your home is. Our Home is in Heaven (verse 20a) This leads nicely into my second point.

2. Our Hope is in Christ (verses 20b-21)

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

We are waiting for our Savior to come. The Bible says that, "When [Jesus] had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ... waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet" (Hebrews 1:3b; 11:12; quoting from Psalm 110). And when His enemies are conquered, Jesus will surely return. And verse 20 says that we "eagerly wait" for that time.

Notice how verse 20 describes Jesus. It identifies Him as being, our "Savior." The picture is this -- that we are in enemy territory, in need of rescue. So, picture yourself as a prisoner of war. Having been captured, and behind enemy lines.

Now, in the POW camp, there are rules and regulations that you must follow; and you are submitting to them, because you have no choice. And yet, with any opportunity that you have, you are still fighting for your home country. Oh, you may be disarmed. And you may be on minimal rations. And you may be under tight surveillance. But, you do anything that you can do to help your country. Perhaps it simply means that you keep up the morale of your fellow prisoners.

But, what are you doing? What fills your day? You are longing for any news on the progress of the war. Who's winning? When will it be over? A new batch of prisoners come, and you interrogate them to see what's happening with the war outside your camp. You are longing for the end of the war. You are longing for victory. You are longing for the time that your government comes to "rescue" you. You are longing for the time when you can just go home and see your family.

The parallels are the same in this text. Our home is in heaven. We are here upon earth, fighting for God's kingdom to come upon the earth. We are waiting for the return of our Savior.

The New American Standard gets it right when it translates this word, "eagerly wait for a Savior." That is, we believe that He is coming. We believe that He is coming soon. And like children eagerly anticipate Christmas morning, so we eagerly wait for Christ to come. It can't come soon enough. Like John says at the end of Revelation, "Come, Lord Jesus." And Jesus has promised, "Yes, I am coming quickly."

This is the hope of all believers in Christ. In Titus 2:13, Paul describes it as "the blessed hope." It is the hope of "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." It is the "blessed hope," because it is the hope of the blessing to come. It is the hope that Christ will come and rescue us completely from enemy lines. He is our Savior.

But, there's more to this word than simply waiting. There's also an expectation with this word. We fully expect Him to come. And we expect Him to come victorious.

This is the hope of every prisoner of war -- that our side will win. This is our expectation -- that Jesus will win. What differentiates us from

prisoners of war who need to be rescued is that we know that we will win! That's the promise of Psalm 110. His enemies will become a footstool for His feet (Psalm 110:1). The LORD will send Him forth, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies" (Psalm 110:2). The Lord will "shatter kings in the day of His wrath" (Psalm 110:5). "He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses" (Psalm 110:6). Lest you think that my language is too strong, this is the language of Psalm 110, which speaks of the final return and rule of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

We are eagerly awaiting a Savior! So, what happens when Jesus returns? The answer to this question comes in verse 21. He will, ...

Philippians 3:21

... transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

In other words, our bodies will get an overhaul. Our bodies right now are in a "humble state." As many translations say, our bodies right now are in a lowly state (ESV, NIV, NKJV). Our bodies are "lowly" because they are weak. Our bodies are "lowly" because they are victims of the fall. As a result, we grow old and die. Our bodies are "lowly" because they are subject to sickness and ugliness. Our bodies are "lowly" because they are sinful.

But, when Christ returns, He will reverse all of this. Our weakness will become strength. We won't die. We won't experience sickness. And our body of sin will be done away with.

In Revelation 21, the loud voice comes from the throne, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4). But, when Christ returns, it is more than a mere removal of the bad. There's also a transformation that will take place in our own bodies for the good.

Look again at verse 21, ...

Philippians 3:21

... transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Our bodies will become like the body of Jesus. When Paul speaks in Romans, chapter 8 about our salvation, he says this, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). In Romans 8, Paul is talking about our destiny. This is the ultimate goal for us in Christ -- to be like Him.

Here in Philippians 3, he is talking about when that will ultimately take place, and what exactly this will be like. He's talking about our bodies. Being conformed to the image of His Son has a bodily component. Our bodies will be "transformed ... into conformity with the body of His glory." In other words, our body will become much like the body of Jesus after the resurrection. We will have "heavenly bodies" (1 Corinthians 15:40).

Now, there is lots of speculation as to exactly what this will look like. What will they look like? What abilities will they have? Will we be perfect? Will we still be male and female? How much resemblance to our earthly bodies will there be? At what age will our bodies appear? And there are some well-thought out answers to each of these questions. [\[5\]](#)

But, I'd prefer to avoid all speculation and stick with the Scripture this morning Here's how Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 15. He writes, ...

1 Corinthians 15:40-44

There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Our heavenly bodies will be imperishable -- they will never die. They will be glorious -- they will be everything that our earthly bodies are not. They will be powerful -- they won't know weakness. They will be spiritual -- we will no longer sin.

Do you long for this day? In the midst of his struggle with ongoing sin, Paul cries out in desperation, "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:24). Jesus Christ will! He will when He returns for His church.

Now, when you start thinking about these things, other sorts of questions come into mind. What about those who have died? What about those whose bodies have rotted in the tomb? What about those who were buried at sea? How will their bodies be restored? What about those who are old when Christ returns? Will aging reverse itself?

We don't know how this will be done. But, the last phrase of verse 21 will remove all doubts.

Philippians 3:21

... transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Let Jesus figure it out. He is the sovereign Lord of the universe. All things will be subjected to Him. He will figure it out. Don't worry. Just hope. Place your hope in Jesus. "Set Your Mind On Heavenly Things." Our Home is in Heaven (verse 20a) and Our Hope is in Christ (verses 20b-21).

This sermon was delivered to Rock Valley Bible Church on April 6, 2014 by Steve Brandon.

For more information see www.rvbc.cc.

[1] <http://www.desiringgod.org/conference-messages/undoing-the-destruction-of-pleasure>

[2] <http://www.music-for-church-choirs.com/page-negrospirituals-98.html>

[3] Time Magazine, April 14, 2014, p. 10

[4] <http://uscitizenshiptestguide.com/text/apply.html>

[5] See Randy Alcorn's book on Heaven, chapter 29