

CITIZENSHIP

-Ryan Parsons-

There is a recurring conversation that I find myself in. It usually always starts with a question. Over the past five years, I have been asked it more than I can count. *So, where are you from?* I'm weird. I know it. We don't have to pretend. Is it that obvious? I've been told I speak with an accent. Another interesting conversation starter is, *"I got this phone call from Texas, so I didn't answer it."* No small amount of explanation has occurred when giving out my phone number. But, when you think about it, this should be the case. I'm from where I'm from. My country of origin has molded my speech. Likewise, my mannerisms are pretty southern.

Philippians 3:20

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

But in the grand scheme of things, does it matter? Not really. However, it should matter in another way. When we are out and about, are we seen as strange in the land in which we live? Are people quietly or overtly wondering where we are from? Are our mannerisms, hopes, language, and lives reflective of our citizenship that "ain't from around here"?

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The kingdom to which we belong has a king. He has given us his ethos to live by, and we anticipate being at home with him. But we don't belong here. Our lives, hopes, and actions should reflect that this isn't where we are from nor where we long to be.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Maranatha,
Ryan