

Sabbath School Lesson #7 – A Heavenly Citizenship – 7-13 February 2026

Christ “hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree; that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14). This one thing contains everything. The mystery of the cross has in it all other mysteries. It is by means of it that all things work together for our good. The law has for sinners only curses and death. But Christ receives in Himself, on the cross, the curse of the law, and suffers the death that the law pronounces upon the ungodly, and, lo, to every one who believes Christ, and through faith hides in Him, the law brings life and blessing. In His body death is turned to life, and cursing is turned to blessing. In view of the cross, therefore, how plain becomes the exhortation and promises, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6). Thanksgiving must be a part of every prayer. Thanksgiving for what? Why, for all things, as we have already read. Thank God not only for past blessings, but for blessings that you are about to receive (Mark 11:24).

Sunday: Role Models – Read Philippians 3:17-19; how are good and bad role models described in this passage? What keys are given to distinguish between them? The apostle Paul designates those who make a god of this world as enemies of the cross of Christ. “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things” (verses 17-19). Let us stand clear from those “whose god is their belly” that we may escape the things that are coming on the earth, and that we stand before the Son of man without spot and blameless.

Monday: “Stand Fast in the Lord” – Read Philippians 3:20-21; how does Paul vividly describe what Christian “citizenship” looks like? We should not meddle in politics. Those who through Christ have access by one Spirit unto the Father “are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19). Let every man concern himself with the affairs of his own country, and not with those of another. For an American to come to the United Kingdom and presume to lecture the UK Parliament for the way in which it conducts the business of Government, or for a British to go to the United States and distinguish himself by his advice to the authorities, would be the height of impertinence. But if they should begin actively to interfere in the conduct of public affairs, or should stand for office, they would speedily be shown that they had no business there. Let them become naturalised, and then they may speak and act as much as they please; but then they must hold their peace if they return to the country to which they once owned allegiance. One need be a citizen to be active in government affairs. This applies to the government of heaven as related to earthly governments, as well as to different countries on earth. The one who is a citizen of the heavenly country has no business to meddle with the affairs of earthly governments. He must leave that business to those who acknowledge this earth to be their home. If earthly rulers think to regulate the affairs pertaining to the kingdom of God, they are guilty of gross presumption, to say the least. If they may not of right presume to regulate the affairs of the heavenly kingdom, much less may citizens of heaven interfere in the affairs of earthly kingdoms. Many ministers of the gospel seek to justify their dealing in politics by saying that it is their duty to make this earth the kingdom of heaven. The minister of the Gospel has but one commission, namely, “Preach the word.” In no other way in the world can men be made better. Hence, ministers who turns their attention to politics are denying their calling. No true Christian meddles in politics.

Tuesday: Rejoice in the Lord – Always – Read Philippians 4:4-7; how are we to experience “the peace of God”? We have heard many people tell how hard they found it to do right; their Christian life was most unsatisfactory to them, being marked only by failure, and they were tempted to give up in discouragement. No wonder they get discouraged; continual failure is enough to discourage anybody. The bravest soldier in the world would become faint-hearted if he had been defeated in every battle. Sometimes these persons will

mournfully tell that they have about lost confidence in themselves. Poor souls, if they would only lose confidence in themselves entirely, and would put their whole trust in the one who is mighty to save, they would have a different story to tell. They would then “joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Says the apostle, “Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.” The man who does not rejoice in God, even though tempted and afflicted, is not fighting the good fight of faith. He is fighting the poor fight of self-confidence and defeat.

Wednesday: Think on These Things – Read Philippians 4:8-9; what specific actions are urged? We must be guided by the truth, and not by feelings or reasoning as many even Adventists do. Where feeling sees mountains, faith sees only molehills. Where faith sees only the arm of flesh, faith sees only the arm of God. Where the wisdom of man sees foolishness, faith sees the wisdom of God. Where feeling and reason see nothing but defeat, faith sees eternal victory. Where feeling and reason see only death, faith sees everlasting life. It makes all the difference in the world whether we share our course in accordance with the evidence of the one, or the other. Faith sees nothing but truth. More than this; it sees nothing but that which is worth seeing. Paul said to his Philippian brethren, “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” These are just things that faith sees. So long as we direct our steps by eyes of faith, we shall walk in the paths of righteousness, but when we cease to walk by faith and begin to walk by sight, or by reason, or by feeling, we begin to go wrong, because we are guided merely by appearances and not by truth.

Thursday: Keys for Contentment – Read Philippians 4:10-13, 19; what keys does Paul reveal for a contented, happy life? We should not only be content under all the varying conditions of life, but we should be content with life itself, – be content merely to be alive. Both of these ideas are expressed in the writings of the Apostle Paul. He said, “I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound” (Philippians 4:11-12). And again, “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:7-8). In the first text the apostle stated that he was content in every state of life; in the second, he exhorts us to be content merely to be alive; for food and raiment mean simply the support of life. Why should we not be satisfied with simple life? Christ came to this earth for the purpose of giving us life, and of perpetuating it. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Christ is the life, and all things are in Him. If we have life indeed, – if we consciously lay hold of it, – we have everything that we need or desire in these last days.

These thoughts are most important for all who live in these last days. A time of trouble is coming upon us. The Lord says: “That which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted, I will pluck up, even this whole land” (Jeremiah 45:4). So He says, “Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not.” Why not? – because “the day of the Lord shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.” “And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:12, 17). What is the use of seeking great things for ourselves, when everything is to be destroyed. When every lofty thing is to be overthrown, the only one who can escape is he who is already low. ‘He that is down need fear no fall, He that is low, no pride.’ But there is a special promise to those who are satisfied with the life which God gives, and it is worth everything. God says, “I will bring evil upon all flesh;” but though disease – the frail of their own evil habits – comes upon all flesh, He says to the contented ones: “Thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest” (Jeremiah 45:5). What a precious promise! “Thou shalt not be afraid ... for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.” But bear in mind that our life is promised to us only as “a prey.” It is “a spoil” that is to be seized upon and saved out of the general destruction. In laying hold on eternal life, we are to fight the good fight of faith. Who is so much in love with life that he will fight for it against all the powers of evil? Whosoever is, shall live, even for ever, for “godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”