

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“...For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

—Philippians 3:20

**Servants during January/February:**

Songleader: Larry (26), Dwight (2/2), Stanley (9), Larry (16), Dwight (23)

Reading: Mike M; Larry (Feb)

Announcements: Stanley; Marty (Feb)

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike M; Stanley, Marty, Larry (Feb)

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (29), Larry (2/5), Stanley (12), Kris (19), Larry (26)

Area Meetings:

Fourth Street (Cullman), 2/7-9, Colby Junkin

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Appreciating Our Citizenship

By Stephen Russell

It is a general truth that those who acquire citizenship by choice have greater appreciation of it than those who have it by birth. That makes sense doesn't it? When you put forth effort to gain something you understand its value more than when you obtain something without even so much effort as making a choice. So it is with God's kingdom.

Under the Old Law citizenship was tied to birth and circumcision. Under the Law of Christ we are “grafted in,” Rom 11:17. In fact even those who were formerly natural citizens have been made aliens and must become naturalized citizens so that we all must be “grafted in,” Rom 11:19-24. So it stands to reason that citizens of the spiritual

kingdom will (on the whole) have a greater love for their citizenship than did the citizens of the earthly kingdom. But what of those Christians who still seem to take their citizenship for granted? What is the cause of such ingratitude?

We must first consider the idea that perhaps they are not citizens. Citizenship means certain proofs will be in place. There is a foundational knowledge that goes hand in hand with becoming a citizen. Jeremiah prophesies of this and the Hebrew writer repeats that there will be a time when “they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother saying, ‘know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me...” Heb 8:11. So if you need to be told to know the

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Lord, then perhaps you aren't a citizen. Likewise, if you are unaware of basic truths such as the existence of the Holy Spirit then it will indicate that something is lacking, Acts 19:1-5. But some are citizens and fall back into ignorance forgetting what they once knew, Heb 5:12.

So when someone actually becomes a citizen and then later fails to appreciate it, it really comes down to forgetting some great truths. They forget in whom they have believed. They did not sign on to become subjects of some imperfect monarch or even elected official. They confessed a faith in the Son of God, Mt 16:16-18, who was and is God, Jn 1:1, and to whom all authority has been given, Mt 28:18. They have forgotten what wretched

men they were without Christ, Rom 7:24, and have stepped away from the wedding feast to return to feasting on vomit, 2 Pet 2:22. They have forgotten that gaining citizenship was the beginning of a commitment, not an isolated event, Phil 3:12-14. And no doubt they have forgotten a great deal more than that.


I think of some of the things people have done to gain American citizenship, risking life and limb because they are fleeing misery and see something better available. I wonder sometimes if we are half so appreciative of our heavenly citizenships as they are of their earthly ones. Or do we, like our physical predecessors forget the God who delivered us from bondage and into freedom? 

chapter, representing hundreds or even thousands of years, he is the only one of whom this statement is made. So, what does it mean?

There are a couple of routes we can take in understanding this. One, that in some unusual way, he more literally walked with God, just as of Moses we are told he interacted with God "face to face," Ex 33:11. This seems to have some merit because his passing from this world suggests his exit was rather unusual as well. Repeatedly, we are told of each one listed, "And he died." Only of Enoch are we told "and God took Him."

Most agree, though, that it simply meant that he was a rare godly man in a world that was slowly spiraling deeper and deeper into unrepentant sin. In fact, when chapter 6 reveals mankind's point of no return, we find the same statement made of Noah, v9. Different variations of the phrase are found in other passages, either of people or as an admonition to people: Micah 6:8 speaks of walking humbly with God; Deuteronomy 6:8 of walking humbly in His ways; 2 Chronicles 7:17 of faithfully following God. Paul spoke often in

his letters of our walk being our way of life (Rom 13:13; 2 Cor 5:7; Gal 5:16; Eph 2:10, etc.); John speaks of walking in the light as He is in the light, 1 Jn 1:6,7. If this is the case, then this passage isn't as mystical or other-worldly as it seems at first. It is practical and doable for us as well as it was for Enoch. What does it look like? Walking with God means to be faithful, obedient and committed to Him. Or, as Micah wrote in Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?"

So, we have two ways to look at this, both viable possibilities. Either this man was so godly that God had a special and very unique relationship with him. Or, that his walk spoke of his extreme devotion to God. This devotion made him stand out among the peers of his day. Let us determine to walk with God, in fellowship with Him, emulating Him (justice, mercy) and seeking to please Him in everything we do. **Let's apply that to our lives.** 

Enoch Walked with God

By Mark McCrary

"And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him," Gen 5:24.

Genesis 5 is filled with a lot of words like "begot" and names like "Cainan" or "Mahalalel" and "Lamech." People are living hundreds of years. That's distant stuff. But, in the middle of all this is a brief account of a man named

Enoch. Not much is given about his life, but one phrase is used that stands out—"Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him," v24. On the surface, that sounds like something we should be able to understand. But the more we think about it, the more distant and bizarre it sounds as well. Of the eleven people mentioned in this

Remember in Prayer

Paige Pollard is in the ICU with pneumonia and RSV, and will probably remain there a few days. **Alice** is to have cataract surgery this Tuesday. Pray also for **Barbara; Betty;**

Carolyn; Faye; Hazel; Joshua V; Kathy M; Kaylee; Mark Horton; Mike B and his family; Pam; and the Pollard Family. 