

Looking Up
Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

I. Looking Up

A. From the beginning.

1. Ever since Jesus ascended into heaven and left the disciples looking up into heaven after Him, Christians have been looking for His return.
2. I think those early Christians thought that Jesus would return soon.
3. We know today that He did not but Christians have always looked for His soon return.
4. We believe that the return of Jesus is immanent, that is that He could return at any moment.

B. He will physically return.

1. "This same Jesus," the angel said "Will come in the same manner as you have seen Him go."
2. Jesus said, "If I go away, I will come again" John 14:3
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NKJV) 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

II. We Eagerly Wait For the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

A. We are not just waiting, we are eagerly waiting.

1. Romans 8:19 (NKJV) 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
2. Romans 8:23 (NKJV) 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

3. Romans 8:25 (NKJV) 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
4. 1 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV) 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
5. Galatians 5:5 (NKJV) 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
6. Hebrews 9:28 (NKJV) 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
7. 2 Peter 3:11-13 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. NKJV

III. Our Transformation

A. Our lowly body

1. Romans 7:24 (NKJV) 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
2. I love how that the young think they will always be as hot as they are and the old people now never were quite as hot as they are.
3. But we have a lowly body, one that is subject to all sorts of humiliating problems.

B. But that is only a temporary problem.

1. 1 John 3:2 (NKJV) 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

IV. All Things will be Subdued

A. When He changes us then the change of earth will not be far away.

1. Rom 8:18-24 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.22 For we know that the whole creation groans and

labors with birth pangs together until now.²³ Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. NKJV

