

DUAL CITIZENSHIP???

As part of the naturalization process, an immigrant who wants to become a U. S. citizen must go through an interview with an INS agent and answer some basic questions about U. S. history and government. For example, **where** do we find this statement? “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by **their Creator** with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**”

A. The Constitution B. the Bill of Rights C. The Declaration of Independence

During a later ceremony, the immigrant must agree to this oath: “I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign, 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;

The position of the U. S. government on the subject of dual citizenship is somewhat ambiguous, but the position of the Bible is not. Christians, in a sense, have dual citizenship. For example, most of us here tonight are U. S. citizens, AND,

“For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose **conduct shows** they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. **But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.**” -Philippians 3:18-20

Just as there are blessings and benefits and obligations of becoming a U. S. citizen, there are many blessings and benefits that go to us as **citizens of heaven** – for now, and, of course, in the future.. For example:

We are beyond condemnation. “Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.” – Romans 8:1, see also Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27

We have been delivered from the power of darkness and into God’s kingdom. “For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” -Colossians 1:13-14

We will never be abandoned. “Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, ‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’” –Hebrews 13:5

We have an imperishable inheritance and God’s protection. “We have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for us, pure and undefiled beyond the reach of change and decay. And God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.” -1 Peter 1:4-5

We are justified. "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." -Romans 5:1

We are perfect. "Our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time.For by that one offering he forever **made perfect** those who are being made holy." Hebrews 10:12-14

We possess every spiritual blessing possible. "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms** because we are united with Christ." -Ephesians 1:3

We have been delivered from the power of evil (Col. 1:13), we are partners with Christ in Life (Col. 3:4) and privilege (Eph. 2:6) and suffering (2 Tim 2:12) and service (1 Cor. 1:9)

We are: members of his body (1 Cor. 12-13), **branches in the vine** (John 15:5), **stones in the building** (Eph. 2:19-22), **bride for the groom** (Eph. 5:25-27), **dwelling places for the Spirit** (1 Cor. 6:19)

We have an unshakeable hope (Hebrews 6:18-19) "...because it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we **hold to the hope that lies before us**. This hope is a **strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls**."

Because of these precious promises and blessings, we must continue to strive to remain faithful and to walk in the narrow way. As the Bible says, 'let us cast off the sins which so easily beset us.' Finally, we need to remember this:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 1 Cor. 2:9