

## Home is Where the Boss Sends You Proper 22A

Some of us have lived in many homes. Some have moved 10 or more times in ten years. Many people whether they have moved in the Armed Forces or with a company that moves them know the phrase, "Home is where ... the boss sends you." Show Navy heart sign.

So what makes a home? Some would say it's where supper is served. Others say home is where there is plenty of love to go around after the chores are finished. A home is the basic building block of a city, a state or a country. A home is simply where a person is from. Citizenship is taught in schools and is measured by how well we get along with fellow students. Being a member of a place gives honor, requires courage and commitment.

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks of moving forward to the place where he was calling home. Paul was from Tarsus, his hometown located in Asia Minor near what is now the Country of Turkey. He was proud to be a citizen of Tarsus and of the Roman Empire. He was also a Jew who had become a Christian.

He was proud of his heritage. He is a rabbi and teacher. But nothing else matters to Paul except reaching his goal – the prize of being a citizen of Heaven. Paul was focused. He had a lot of distractions as we do. He was a missionary, proclaiming Jesus Christ, setting up churches and teaching Christianity 101. It was not an easy job especially when you had fellow Jews who were trying to upset people who embraced Jesus.

Paul would not give up. He describes his calling as an image of a sports event, a foot race, striving to run until the finished line is reached. And he wants those who are mature to have the same mind. He was confident that even what was unclear God would reveal it.

He was single minded and focused on achieving the end of his mission. Paul invited his readers along urging them to imitate his example and follow all those who were living this life as he was.

Paul knew where home was and his heart was already there. He was passing through and not making any unnecessary stops. Paul and his companions needed shelter, food and clothing

like any of us today, but he was only passing through to the big shelter in heaven.

A couple of election days ago, a man drove past a fine, vital, Roman Catholic church in the next town, and there were two signs out in front. One was the church marquee; the other was a cardboard sign on a short wooden stick, indicating with an arrow that the parish house was being used as a polling place. The marquee read: Our citizenship is in heaven. The cardboard sign read: Vote here.

The two signs and their apparent paradox seemed to get things just about right. God's house is the only place where citizens of heaven can vote. Your heavenly citizenship is only as good, practically, as your earthly franchise. On the other hand, as Paul wrote in his letter, you will probably vote wrongly--irresponsibly, selfishly--unless you keep your heavenly responsibilities in mind.

Those who set their minds on earthly concerns were what Paul called the enemies of the cross. Their heart was set not on heavenly construction but on building things of the earth. Who has not given themselves to building, and saving and

gathering the things this earthly life offers. How easy it is to believe that this is all there is!

How do we avoid the trap of distraction? How can I get back on track to the same upward call written of by Paul?

Not many are privy to visions of Jesus Christ as Paul was. Not many have the time to spend years in the desert as Paul did to find himself and God's calling.

But we have the heart given to each of us as the receiver for God's Spirit. Transmitting on all frequencies and bands we tune in amidst all the static and listen and listen some more to heaven's broadcast. God will not lead us wrong. He has also given a corrective to messages that might be confusing: the guidebook of Holy Scripture. The dish/antennae may be faced in the wrong direction. It happens. With God's help turn the dish back toward the sky and listen. He's beaming down just the right message for you.

Are you ready to hear? If you are then be ready to move. Are you ready to move then keep your

eyes on Jesus and look to the one who has power to make and transform your life.

In the time-line of global history our lives are short on this earth. What race are we running – one toward a temporal finish or one where eternal rewards are gained? We are just passing through this life on our way to a kingdom of justice, righteousness and love. One life lived for Christ, run toward the heavenly call can make a big difference in others lives. Paul's did. So can ours. AMEN.