

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Proverbs 9.

Philippians 1:27 "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel. . ." (NIV)

We are to "conduct ourselves" in the right manner and for the right reason. "We do not behave in order to go to heaven, as though we could be saved by our good works; but we behave because our names are already written in heaven, and our citizenship is in heaven." (Wiersbe)

Many have seen a person acting in a manner that is not representative of their family or earthly citizenship. I have shared with you many times, as a kid growing up, I was pretty good. Not great, and definitely not perfect, but I did win the citizenship award in school and was recognized in sports with the sportsmanship trophy. One reason I tried to be good and helpful was my love and respect for my parents. I did not want to disappoint them, especially my father.

I did not have to be good to remain a part of my family, but being good helped build a strong relationship with my family and allowed me to represent my family in a positive way.

The same is true of our citizenship in heaven. Olympic athletes participated in order to win the Victor's Wreath. The only way they could win was by not being disqualified. Being disqualified did not take away their citizenship, but it did hinder their relationship as an Olympic Ambassador for their countries.

When people go abroad, they are unofficial ambassadors of their home country. Some conduct themselves as worthy ambassadors, while other can be seen as rude, insensitive, and disrespectful.

As believers, we are being watched to see what kind of representative we are of heaven. Our conduct and manner of life should reflect the glory and honor of our Savior?

Happy Friday. I hope you are in church this Sunday.