**Sermon Notes – ‘Citizens of heaven’**

***‘Heaven in the Bible is not a place in the blue beyond. Heaven is God’s space; it’s the full reality of God. We catch glimpses of God ‘s space all over the world, but it is not established here.***

***It is not that earth is real and heaven is less real, rather that what we are living in now is less real compared to what will be’.*** (J John in his foreword to ‘City of Gold’).

* What thoughts/images/questions come to mind when you think of ‘heaven’?
* Can you recall what words/images Jesus used to paint a picture of heaven? (Matthew 22:1,2 John 14:1-6).
* Read Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27. What excites you about this passage?
* Read 1 Corinthians 2:9. What does this tell us about our capacity to imagine the reality of heaven and why?
* Read Philippians 3:17-21. Why do you think the apostle Paul emphasizes their true citizenship v20 and what difference should that make to the way they live?
* What do you think your resurrection body will be like?
* How has thinking about heaven affected how you live in the here and now? Does it make the prospect of death less daunting?

Pray for one another that we may each catch a Biblical vision for the glorious future that awaits all those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

***‘Jesus is in heaven, not only reigning, not only praying for us but he is preparing a place for us. He waits for us and will welcome us with joy.***

***Heaven is ready for us. You and I, are we getting ready for heaven? Heaven is in the future tense. Today we live in the present tense. To be a Christian means our future is grounded in future reality’*** *(J John).*

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