



Jeff Sweeten

Thurs Faith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:
www.parkheightscoc.com

Thurs Faith the Lord

GOING HOME

By Jeff Sweeten

The anticipation of getting there is often unbearable. "Are we there yet?" is not a question limited to a brat in the backseat; many of the pleasurable experiences God has blessed us with in this life are intensified by the anticipation of their realization. I can still remember the excitement of driving under the horns of an Angora Billy-goat wired above and between two massive cedar gateposts leading to Granny and Granddad's home place in Camp Wood, TX. All the fun a kid could imagine lay beyond that gate: building hideouts in the hay barn, cool and refreshing afternoons spent swimming in the Nueces River, and conversations on the front porch with Granddad about the mysteries of life.

Paul must have been brimming with anticipation when he penned these words of encouragement to his Philippian brethren. "*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself*" (Philippians 3:20-21). Someday, by the power of Jesus Christ, we are going home.

The journey, however, is another matter. There are those times when we are discouraged by the inevitable pit stops inherent in a long journey (Hebrews 12:1). They seem to delay progress but are as essential as they are inconvenient. Refueling is a necessity and without it, one is dead in the water (Hebrews 10:24-25). Then, there is the unfortunate detour, sometimes due to unexpected construction (Romans 8:28) and at other times because of that ugly old pride factor that foregoes the obvious: we ignore the map (Psalm 119:105). Even the natural discomfort and exhaustion that intensifies as the journey draws to a close can become oppressive (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7). But, knowing what awaits at the journey's end is worth the trip.

Paul was writing from prison to a church in the midst of retired Roman soldiers; the same Roman army imposing his incarceration. Still he anticipated Heaven. He knew prison was just a minor pit stop along life's road, another audience to teach about Heaven; and he baptized souls in Caesar's very own backyard (Philippians 1:12). Where bondage limited him, he found opportunity (1 Corinthians 16:9) because his work in the Gospel would not be stymied (2 Timothy 4:8).

"*Our citizenship is in heaven,*" Paul said. We are a part of the "*family in heaven*" (Ephesians 3:15). Our journey's end is a place where joys and wonders transcend our wildest imaginations. How can we allow the trial of the journey to constitute an obstacle to eternal bliss? In lieu of fussing and worrying about the minutia of day-to-day struggles, we must focus on the big picture: we're going home! Our Father beckons us ascend to Heaven's front porch and to enter in, promising the peace, comfort and consolation that comprise the essence of an eternity in bliss so wonderful, so incredible that the anticipation is barely bearable.