

Vaughnsville, ,

January, 7, 1923.

N. W. ...

Colonies of Heaven

Anderson 11/1/28

Evangelical

Scripture Lesson:

Richmond,

5/24/31

7/17/32

Text:-Philippians 3:20

Introduction:-Show how citizens of a country are often living in another country for certain purposes. Roman colonies in Philippi; English in Am. To influence people of land in which they dwell for their own country.

Every one influenced by spirit and laws of the country of which he is a citizen. Thus the characteristics of different peoples. Eng. French, etc. We as citizens of heaven, to have the characteristics of heaven that people will easily know where we belong.

Our citizenship in heaven-but we are on earth. Hence we are a colony of heaven on earth for a particular purpose. Every church to be a colony of heaven. Not always the case. Purpose-to make the community in which it lives heavenly.

I. To Demonstrate What the Christian Life is and the Disposition and Character Required in Community Relations.

- 1. Actual demonstration-not theoretical assumptions and assertions. Define demonstrate. Church often does not demonstrate, but only assert.
- 2. Disposition & character required etc. Often there is discord in the colony of heaven-hence loss of influence. How can people who are at enmity here hope to be in harmony in heaven. If we are to convince the people of the land in which we dwell there must be harmony, and actual demonstration of principles of Jesus.

II. Guide Moral and Spiritual Life of Community

- 1. Moral life of a community will rise no higher than standards held up by church. Too often we as colony of heaven fail to accurately represent our sovereign. Lower standards.
- 2. Must make it easy to do right and hard to do wrong in our community. Means to this end,

III. Direct Social and Recreational Life of its Community.

- 1. Has been neglected in the past. Stress laid on spiritual only. These are legitimate things. Why should it be left to a commercial organization

to supply and direct these things. If they are to be as they should be, the church must direct them.

IV. This Colony of Heaven to be Central in the Community.

1. Was once central
2. Is not today
3. Often takes second or third place, even in minds of those where it should be first. (Give case of Sulphur Grove).
4. This is often fault of church, because she has not taken an interest in everything that is for the spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical welfare of the community. She must be interested in these things.

To the extent that the principles and love of Jesus dominate the activities of a community or a people, to that extent the Kingdom of God has come in that community. We are citizens of heaven, colonists on earth. Our great task is not simply to get to heaven, but to make the principles of heaven uppermost in our community, and only by so doing can we have the assurance of being claimed as citizens of heaven. Then when we have done our best here when we have worked hard and really accomplished something for our Christ, we can go to our eternal abode, with sweet anticipation, and with the blessed assurance that we shall have his smile of approval and hear the golden words, "well done good and faithful servant".