

SCCC – PRIVILEGE OF A CITIZEN

S – Scriptures

“Then the commander said, “I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.” “But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.” Acts 22: 28

C – Consideration

Paul had spoken to the crowd, witnessing his conversion to Christianity. Rejecting his words, they were furious against the apostle and were ready to kill him. The Roman commander decided to torture and questioned him to know the reason for such hostility against the apostle. The soldiers stretched him out to flog him when he asked their leader, “Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?” Paul’s question brought a huge panic among them. The centurion went to the commander and reported it. “What are you going to do?” “This man is a Roman citizen.” Their leader went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” “Yes, I am,” he answered.

C – Commitment

Like the apostle, I have dual citizenship, one by birth and the other by naturalization. The privilege of a citizen is completely different when compared to a foreigner who has no rights in the country. Paul had taken advantage of his nationality to avoid a punishment that a foreigner would have to suffer. But, the time came when he could no longer make use of the most powerful status that a person could have in his time. People were ready to pay a lot of money to become Roman citizens, as the commander had stated. However, no matter what status, we can have on this earth when the time comes to our departure, it will have no value. If I am Brazilian or Canadian, as Paul was a Jew and a Roman, we have to get the heavenly one. Paul had gotten his new passport on the road to Damascus, where he met the King of kings, repented of his sins, calling on the name of Jesus as his Lord and Savior. I had done the same. When I was in a hospital bed without hope to live, I discovered how little my dual citizenship could do for me. Then, like Paul I cried out to Jesus to get my third and most important status, the heavenly one: “Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household,” “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 2: 19, Phil. 3: 20). Jesus heard my prayer, healed my body, and gave me my new status. The amazing news is that Jesus Christ has paid the price on the cross, for anyone who desires to live in the most precious country in the universe and to enjoy eternity in His presence.

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, thank you for the earthly citizenship you have given me. The privilege to live in one of the richest nations in the world; but above that, thank you that I became Your son, through Jesus Christ, and when the time comes, I will go to my eternal nation. I pray for the millions who still have not heard about this good news, that You would send ambassadors to invite them to become members of God’s family like Paul, me, and millions whose names are written in the book of life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.