

## The Fatherland

Hebrews 11:15-16

The word translated “country” (*patrida*) in verse 14 would be better translated *Fatherland*. Our eternal home is our Fatherland. Jesus said, “The meek will inherit the earth” and the city He is building for us. The Fatherland is this world with Christ as King and the nations as His subjects. It is the redemption of an earth that has been cursed. After the resurrection, we live in a land where the curse has been reversed.

### I. Only those who are strangers and pilgrims in this life think about the Fatherland.

*“And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out (Chaldea), they would have had opportunity to return”* (v. 15). The land from which Abraham came was never far away for him and his descendants. There were no obstacles to prevent them from returning. Abraham made his servant take an oath, swearing that he would do nothing to induce Isaac to return to that pagan land. Though Jacob did once sojourn there, he did not and could not stay. Why? Because the people of God were looking for their happiness and satisfaction in the Fatherland.

#### A. Our greatest loyalty in life is for the Fatherland.

The word “Fatherland” is the word from which we get our English word “patriotism”. *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Colossians 3:1-5).

#### B. Our greatest love in life comes from the Father.

*“We love Him because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19). *“God loved us when there was nothing good to be seen in us and nothing good to be said for us”* (John Blanchard). He loved **us**. When you can begin to fathom the love of the Father, then you begin to love the Fatherland. *“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...that you will be rooted and grounded in love, and that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth (of the love of God) and that you might know the love of Christ which is unknowable, that you may be filled up with all the fullness of God”* (Eph. 3:14-19).

### II. Those who don't think about the Fatherland give evidence that God is not their Father.

*“Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he has prepared for them a city”* (16b). The word “therefore” might make you think that God responds to your thinking of the eternal by becoming your Father. It's just the reverse. You think of the eternal *because* God is your Father. Until there's a change in the atmosphere, what thaws in the sun will again freeze in the shade.

### III. There are some necessary things required for you to enter into the Fatherland upon your death.

It's not that complicated. It might be best to remember what is required of you entering a country.

#### A. You must have a birth certificate to prove your citizenship.

The Lord God has given me a new nature (2 Cor. 5:17). There is in me a new man, created of God in me. This new nature results from the new birth, and the fruit of the Spirit is my certificate.

#### B. You must have a pass (visa) from the king of the country receiving you.

I enter because of Christ. *“All that come to the Father by Me will not be cast out”* (John 6:37). *Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea. A great High Priest whose name is Love who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart. I know that while in Heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart.* (“Before the Throne of God above” Charitie Lees Smith)

#### C. There can be no warrant for arrest because of a crime you have committed.

Jesus Christ has purged away all my sins with his own precious blood. Therefore God will never charge me with any sin (Rom. 4:8). The books containing my wrongs are empty (Jeremiah 50:20).