Introduction: Tyre Nichols was a 29-year-old black man in Memphis. A father of a four-year-old boy, employee at FedEx, and a motorist. On January 7th he was pulled over by the police, 3 days later he died in a local hospital. Body camera video from the officers shows the events leading up to his admittance into the hospital and cause of death. It is not a pretty picture. Since then, five police officers have been fired and charged in this case. They were members of an elite unit called SCORPION which stands for Street Crime Operation to Restore Peace in Our Neighborhoods. This brings to mind three lessons from the Bible.

**I) The Ugliness of Sin**

**A) The Way of Cain.**

**Genesis 4:3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

1. Facts about Cain – he killed his brother not because of race relations, or economic conditions, or even society’s influence.

2. He killed his brother because of

a. Disobedience to God- whereas Abel offered his sacrifice “by faith” Cain did not do so.

**Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks**.

b. Anger as plainly stated in Genesis 4. Anger unchecked, unrestrained, cause us to do terrible things. These police officers were operating out of such anger.

c. He ignored God’s warning and encouragement.

**7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."**

**B) Cain was the first murderer**

**1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.**

1. Cain shows us the battle of light v. darkness; love v. hatred.

2. We choose to obey or disobey, to heed the warnings or ignore them, how we handle anger.

**Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,**

**II) The Importance of Citizenship**

**A) Our Rights**

1. The Bill of Rights states our rights as citizens of the United States.

* Amendment I. Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly. ...
* Amendment II. Right to bear arms. ...
* Amendment III. Quartering of soldiers. ...
* Amendment IV. Search and arrest. ...
* Amendment V. Rights in criminal cases. ...
* Amendment VI. Right to a fair trial. ...
* Amendment VII. Rights in civil cases. ...
* Amendment VIII. Bail, fines, punishmen

2. When those rights are misused or violated, bad things happen. As seen in the case of Tyre Nichols.

**B) Paul’s appeal to his rights**

1. His arrest and beating in Acts 16.

**Acts 16:35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." 36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city**.

2. Say what you will about the Roman government but they valued their citizenship.

**C) Our citizenship**

**Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

1. Paul we were born into our citizenship. Not of the flesh but of the spirit

**John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**.

2. As citizens of the eternal kingdom we are free from

a. the burden of sin

b. human regulations and tradition

3. Free to

a. Worship God in spirit and truth, John 4.24

b. Access the throne of grace in prayer

c. Be free from sin, Romans 6.18-20

4. Our citizenship is in heaven

**1 Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power**.

**III) I Just Want To Go Home**

**A) Some of Tyre’s last words.**

1. A simple desire- be with his mom and family.

2. Home is where we belong, are loved, find peace and comfort.

**B) We are just trying to get home.**

1. The Prodigal Son just wanted to be back in His father’s household.

**Luke 15:17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'**

2. As the song says “This world’s not my home I’m just a passing through”.

3. Jesus went back to His home when He ascended into heaven.

4. He left with this promise.

**John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."**

Conclusion: Let us live so as to make it home.