Bible Study

**Philippians: Living with Joy**

**Chapter 3**

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

**DISCUSSION**

Chapter 3:1-11 Recap (1-3)

III. THE SPIRITUAL MIND—chapter 3

A. Paul’s past—3:1–11

1. (the accountant—“I count”)

B. **Paul’s present—3:12–16**

**1.(the athlete—“I press”)**

C. Paul’s future—3:17–21

1. (the alien—“I look”)–30

Cut down on distractions; strengthen your devotion; focus on your direction.

*v. 14 “I press…”*

The Greek word used for “press” here means “to pursue”, “to ensue”, “to follow (after)”. The Greeks used it to describe a hunter eagerly pursuing his prey.

What every Christ follower needs is determination.

We must remember that in order to “win the prize” we must **allow God to work in us**; this is key!

God works *in* us so that He can work *through* us.

While we press forward with determination, we must also press forward with discipline.

A distinguishing mark which accompanies discipline is obedience. For the Christ follower it is obedience to the Word of God.

If we have disciplined ourselves to obey the rules, we shall receive a prize.

\*It has been said that we learn more by what is caught than by what is taught. What does this statement mean?

**DISCOVERY**

III. THE SPIRITUAL MIND—chapter 3

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Paul’s Future (vv 17-21)

*(v. 17) “join in imitating me…”* In the KJV this appears as “*followers together*”

The Greek word used here literally means “a co-imitator”.

Author James Baldwin once said, “Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”

\*What does it mean to be an imitator?

A point of consideration should be, “who are we imitating?” If your response to this is “no one”, then this becomes a problem if you are a Christ follower.

Paul here, says follow my example of relentlessly pursuing Christlikeness.

**ch 3:10**; **1 Corinthians** 4:16, **11:1**

“Excellent people-spiritually minded people who want to excel in their walk with God-hang around excellent people. They spend time with others sharing the same goal.” --Dr. Tony Evans

A deeper, more pointed question for consideration is “who is imitating us?”

**Imitate my relentless pursuit of Christlikeness.**

Paul says be imitators of me because there are *other* examples that we could be following.

*(v. 18) “…many live as enemies of the cross.”*

Dr. Tony Evans says, “to live as ‘*enemies of the cross’* is to engage in lives of physical gratification and self-centeredness.”

Paul says that these “enemies of the cross” are first, and foremost, destined for destruction – they will be eternally separated from God’s presence in everlasting judgment.

(v. 19)

Further, Paul gives three (3) more distinctive markers of these enemies of the cross.

1. Their god is their belly
   1. Their primary focus is their physical desires and unrestrained gluttony.
   2. Romans 16:18
2. Their glory is their shame
   1. Instead of giving glory to God they heap praise on themselves. Ironically, they pride themselves in the things they should be ashamed of.
3. They are focused on earthly things
   1. They were depending on earthly things to gain merit with God
   2. Galatians 4:3, 9-11
   3. Colossians 2:21-22

*(v. 20) “Our citizenship is in heaven…”*

Because they were under the authority of the Roman government, the people of Philippi, though living there, were citizens of Rome.

So it is with the Christ follower. While we live on earth, our citizenship is in heaven. We are citizens of heaven.

**John 15:19; Colossians 1:13**

*“…we eagerly wait...”*

The believer looks with keen anticipation for his Savior’s return from heaven.

The Greek word used here suggests that we wait with “tiptoe anticipation” for Christ’s return.

**Hebrews 9:28**

*(v. 21) “He will transform the body…”*

At the Rapture of the church, Christ will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-55**

Then every child of God will be made like the Son of God that is, all Christians will receive glorified bodies like His.

**1 John 3:2**

**WE WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2023, 7PM**

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 4

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