

Series "Joy In Christ"
"A Command"
Philippians 3:17-21
Part-14

**Paul Gives A Command To Follow Good Examples:
Philippians 3:17**

Verses 18-19 Flee Bad Examples:

Philippians 3 - Joy In Sharing:

Believer's Citizenship Is In Heaven, So We Must Follow Spiritually Minded Examples:

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Must Follow Good Examples, Fleeing The Bad, Because As Citizens Of Heaven, We Eagerly Await Our Savior."

- 1. Verse 17 Follow Good Example:**
- 2. Verses 18-19 Flee Bad Example:**
- 3. Verses 20-21 Focused On Heaven:**

1. Verse 17 Follow Good Example:

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example,

Context – Paul left off with "**A Goal**". *Mature Believers Have A Spiritual Discontent With A Devout Determination Because Discipline Will Lead To Christlikeness:*

16 let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

The standard is the Word

Brethren,

Eight times, Paul speaks of members of God's family.

Those who are born again.

Paul Started This Chapter With a Warning:

Philippians 3:1-2 now finishes "**Joy In Sharing**" with yet another warning, "**A Command**"

Command To Follow:

join in following my example

"joint imitators" we get the term "mimic."

Paul is saying is that we need *"to follow together."* **Philippians 1:21**

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:12 Paul modeled being dissatisfied; he had not arrived;

1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:10

Command To Observe:

observe those *speaks of "careful scrutiny."*

The English word *"scope"* (microscope) comes from this Greek term.

**A term for those who were bad examples. Romans 16:17-18
3 John 9-11**

**those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.
(Timothy, Epaphroditus, Titus, Silas?)**

The word **pattern** (example)

It is the impression or stamp made by an industrial die.

It was used in the nail prints in the hands of Jesus, left by the hard blows.
John 20:25

Galatians 6:17 for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

2. Verses 18-19 Flee Bad Example:

Philippians 3:18 For many walk

(This many is speaking of habitual; it is an ongoing pattern, we call it a lifestyle.)

**of whom I often told you,
Philippians 3:2**

**Believers have the responsibility of testing the spirit of truth and error.
1 John 4:1**

and now tell you

It was such a concern and danger that Paul had to deal with it again.

even weeping,

Speaks of the love and the care that Paul had towards the believers.

Paul wept over those he rebuked,

2 Corinthians 2:4; Ephesian Elders - Acts 20:31

Paul Gives A Five Point Description!

**Description #1: They are enemies of the cross of Christ,
(What do they think of redemption?) They Deny The Efficacy Of The Cross:**

Antinomianism – anti- against, nomian – law.

Grace has come, and the law is gone. No obligation to keep the moral law.

Do what you please, with no restrictions. **James 2:17**

Judaizers – They believe you need to be circumcised in obedience to the Mosaic law to be added to faith in order to be justified. **Acts 15:1**

The Cross Is The Symbol Of “Power Of God For Salvation”

God’s Substitutionary Sacrifice for our sin. God’s hatred of sin.

“Guilty!” 1 Corinthians 1:18

Philippians 3:19

Description #2 whose end is destruction, (Destiny)

These Legalist/Antinominalists are lost and are destined for hell.

Unsaved, unregenerate **Matthew 15:14**

end - *speaks of the conclusion of the acceptance of their message.*

Any person who accepts this system of salvation by works and then dies will be taken to "Hell." The final resting place will be the lake of fire. **Revelation 20**

destruction - *"waste, lost-ness."*

It is the same as *perish* and *lost*, not annihilation

2 Peter 2:1

Description #3 whose god is their appetite, (Live For Their Appetites)

They were in the ministry for what they could get out of it.

Peter warned **2 Peter 2:2-3**

It is their appetites that dictate their lives.

The decision is all about personal satisfaction.

Romans 14:17; 1 Peter 5:2

Their belly (stomach) that hungers for the world became their god.

Romans 16:18

Description #4, whose glory is in their shame, (No Shamed In Their Behavior). Their sense of values is wrong. They are upside down and their world is backwards. They gloried in those things of which they should have been ashamed.

Romans 1:32

Description #5 who set their minds on earthly things. (World's Standards Are Their Standards)

Their focus was on this world. The world was the prize, not heaven. **James 4:4**

Paul was eyeing the prize of the heavenly calling (**Philippians 3:14**) they settled for earth. **2 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 3:1-2**

3. Verses 20-21 Focused On Heaven:

Philippians 3:20 For our - is speaking about Christians

citizenship - (K.J.V. "conversation") this from the Greek word for "city."

The word has the literal meaning "*citizenship.*"

The idea of the people who obey the commands and directions of a city.

is in heaven,

"In the heavens" in the general sense, they are "*heavenly citizens*"; the reality is that they are residents of the Holy City.

Christians likewise constitute a colony of heaven on earth.

is - *this states that citizenship was a present possession.*

from which also we eagerly wait - "*look*" this word speaks of an earnest longing, an eager expectation, anxious waiting." **Titus 2:13**

Jesus Is Our Savior: for a Savior, 1 Timothy 4:10

Jesus' Full Name: the Lord Jesus Christ;

This is the full name by which every knee will bow, and every tongue confess.

is Lord - His Deity.

He did not become God; He always was God.

Jesus - The humanity of the Son Of God, Jesus, that He was God in the flesh.

Christ - He is the Messiah.

Philippians 3:21 Our Change Will Come From Jesus:

who will transform the body - *"to change the figure of, to fashion anew"*

This speaks of an outward appearance.

It is going to be a glorified body that is suited for heaven. (Resurrection Body)

The (K.J.V.) reads **21 Who shall change our vile body,**

vile body

It is an unfortunate translation; it was not saying that the body is evil.

(NASB) the body of our humble state

Literally - *"the body of our humiliation"*

conformity - means *"joint form"*

The word **"fashioned"** *It refers to the inner essence of the new body.*

There will be no sin nature in this new body.

1 Corinthians 15:43

with the body of His glory,

The goal is to be like Jesus Christ Himself. Resurrection body.

If a believer is alive at the time of Christ's return, he will be transformed into a glorified body. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

If a believer has died before Christ's coming, his body will be raised from the dead and transformed into an immortal, incorruptible body (1 Corinthians 15:51-57) 1 Corinthians 15:49

exertion - *energeia* **He has** We have the word *"Dynamite"* superpower. **subject all things to Himself.** *disordered world, "to set in array, set in order."*

Application:

1. Jesus Is Not Physically Modeling For Us On Earth, But We Can See Jesus Through Godly Examples, And We Can Hear Jesus Through His Word.
2. Believers Have The Responsibility Of Testing The Spirits Of Truth And Error, And Following The Good And Rejecting The Bad.
3. Heaven Is Not Only Our Destination, But Also Our Motivation.