

Philippians 3:17-21

- 1) Paul argues some of the benefits of active participation in the congregation—3:17
 - a) Follow Paul’s example—¹⁷ *Be fellow-imitators [summimetes] of me, brothers,*
 - i) Root of the English word “mimic.”
 - ii) Cf. 1st Cor. 4:16; 11:1; 2nd Thess. 3:7
 - b) Follow the example of other believers (we need other Christian)—*and observe those who walk [peripateo] accordingly,*
 - i) *just as you^{pl} have us for a pattern [tupos].* (cf. 2nd Thess. 3:9; Titus 2:7)
 - c) The standard is the mindset of Christ (2:5-11), exemplified by Timothy (2:19-24), Epaphroditus (2:25-30), and Paul (3:7-14).
- Paul gives two primary reasons why these commands are so important—3:18-21
- 2) Reason # 1: the dangerous mindset and lifestyle of certain professing believers—3:18-19
 - ¹⁸ *For many walk [peripateo] (of whom I have often told you^{pl}, and now tell you^{pl} even weeping) as the enemies of the cross (and all it entails) of Christ, ... who set their mind on earthly things.*
 - a) Their eventual ruin—¹⁹ *whose end is destruction,*
 - i) This refers to ruination, not annihilation.
 - b) Their current focus—*whose ...*
 - i) *god is their appetite [koilia],* (cf. Rom. 16:18)
 - ii) *and glory* (what they are known for) *is in their shame,*
 - c) Those who claim the name of Christ but live a life that is consumed and controlled by their sinful desires show themselves still to be enemies of the cross by their willful rejection of the cross-shaped life of self-denial and single-minded pursuit of Christ above all else. (Harmon)
- 3) Reason # 2: the mindset and lifestyle of genuine believers—3:20-21 ²⁰ *For our* (emphatic, in contrast to the previous group) *citizenship is in heaven,* (as opposed to earthly things)
 - a) Illustration
 - i) Paul reminds the Philippian believers that they possess all the status, privileges, and rights that originate in their Homeland. Their real citizenship is in heaven, similar to the Philippian colony who had their citizenship in Rome.
 - b) Anticipation—*from which* (homeland) *also we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - i) This is clear evidence of the imminent return of Christ. (cf. John 14:2-3; Rom. 8:19, 23, 25; 1st Cor. 1:7-8; Gal. 5:5; 1st Thess. 1:10; Titus 2:13)
 - ii) Paul distinguishes the Christian Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, from the many secular saviors (including the emperor) in their culture.
 - c) Transformation/final sanctification/glorification—²¹ *Who will transform our humble body into conformity with His glorious body,* (cf. 2nd Cor. 5:1-5; 1st John 3:2)
 - i) This refers to believers receiving their glorified bodies.
 - (1) The physical body is not inherently evil or worthless (cf. 1st Cor. 6:19)
 - ii) God’s omnipotence—*in accordance with the power by which He is able also to subject all things to Himself.* (cf. 2:9-11)