

Paul's Example
Philippians 3:17-21

Rich O'Toole

07/14/24

I. An example worth following. *Philippians 3:17*

A Christian's main focus and energy should be knowing Jesus and making Him known to others. One of the main ways we can make Jesus known is by our _____ to others. **1 Corinthians 11:1**

- It is a high responsibility to ask another person to pattern their life after yours. Imagine the _____ to the Lord someone has when they instruct a person to follow their example.

We are called to resemble our Heavenly Father so when we act according to our new _____ as children of God, we are imitating Him.

Ephesians 5:1

II. Heading for destruction. *Philippians 3:18-19*

"The Judaizers were the "enemies of the cross of Christ" in that they _____ the law of Moses to the work of redemption that Christ wrought on the cross." (Wiersbe) ***Galatians 2:21***

- Some commentators say the people Paul was addressing were the polar opposite of the legalists, i.e., people who were using grace as a license to sin, while _____ the flesh. ***Galatians 5:13***

The Cross demonstrates the love of God, and the empty tomb demonstrates the ultimate _____ power of God for lost sinners.

- ***Enemies of the Cross*** does not mean the physical Cross, it means these people are enemies of the truth that Jesus made atonement on the cross and its _____ power to affect our lives.

III. Our true transformation. *Philippians 3:20-21*

We learned this when we studied ***Philippians 1***. Paul taught the saints at Philippi that they were serving in a foreign land, _____ the King and the Kingdom of heaven. ***2 Corinthians 5:20***

- "Just as the Roman colonists never forgot that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; and your conduct must match your _____." (Barclay)

The Greek verb "*metamorphoo*" is used in the present imperative meaning, being _____ ***transformed. Romans 12:2***

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read ***Philippians 3:17***. According to the sermon, what should a Christian focus on in life? What are some practical ways we can imitate God's love?
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, John 15:9-13, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 4:9-11, Ephesians 5:1, 1 Corinthians 11:1
2. According to the sermon, does a Christian have a choice about being a witness?
Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:16
3. Read ***Philippians 3:18-19***. Who were the two different options commentators gave discussing "***enemies of the Cross***"? What did Paul mean by the statement, "***Whose god is their belly***"?
Galatians 2:21, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 5:13
4. Read ***Philippians 3:20***. Where is a Christian's true citizenship? Why are we called ***ambassadors*** in ***2 Corinthians 5:20***? What is the job of an ***ambassador***?
Hebrews 9:27-28
5. Read ***Philippians 3:21***. Discuss the transformation that happens to Christ-followers practically and positionally.
Romans 12:2, 1 John 3:2, Colossians 3:3-4, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
6. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon.