

What Matters Most

Reconciliation

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Paul's Priorities (3:9-11)

- A. Righteousness through faith in Christ (9)
- B. A Growing Personal Relationship in Christ (10a)
- C. Partnership of Suffering in Christ (10b)
- D. Eternal Life in Christ (11)

Heavenly Citizenship

- 1. Imitation - together (17)
- 2. Destruction - faulty mindset (18-19)
- 3. Transformation - citizenship (20-21)
- 4. Dedication - standing firm (4:1)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. ¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 14:17-19

**The kingdom of God is the solution
... Nothing but the gospel can
transform our nation. - Jeremy Fant**

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Think of somebody who is worthy of imitating their walk with God. What spiritual fruit and disciplines do you see in their lives that are worth imitating? Discuss.
- 2. In this passage, Paul explains that ungodly behavior is a product of a faulty mindset (3:19). Read Philippians 3:12-14 and compare and contrast the mindset of a person focused on Christ with the mindset of an individual who is focused on earthly things.
- 3. In the interview with Jeremy, he kept mentioning the *Kingdom of God*. What is the *Kingdom of God*? Read this article from Ligonier Ministries, [The Kingdom of God by R.C. Sproul](#), to get some good biblical insight about the Kingdom of God and the implications it has in your life. Discuss.
- 4. Paul calls the people of Philippi his current joy and partners in the hope of Christ together looking toward heaven (4:1). Paul challenges the church to stand firm. This is our calling as the body of Christ. Name three people who are standing side-by-side with you. Make it a priority to pray for them each day this week.