

19 Philippians 3:16-21

Followers Together of Me

1. Phil 3:15-16

- a. *"God shall reveal even this unto you"* – How? First, *"Be thus minded"*
- b. God reveals his will in his word to those that believe – 2Tim 3:16, 1Th 2:13
- c. *"whereto we have already attained"* – not as perfect, not as yet apprehended – 3:12-13
- d. *"walk by the same rule..."* – Rule of doctrine/standard - Col 2:6, but also Gal 6:14-16
- e. *"mind the same thing"* – Which means there is one thing we mind – 1:27, 2:2, 4:2

2. Phil 3:17 – Be followers together of me

- a. Paul says more than once, no one else but Christ said so – 1 Cor 4:16; 11:1; 2Th 3:6-7
- b. Christ sent Paul to preach the glory of his grace in a mystery – Col 1:25-28
- c. Paul is not the mediator, Saviour, but a pattern – 1 Tim 1:16, Rom 11:13, Matt 23:2
- d. *"mark them"* – Paul identifies people to follow and avoid (Rom 16:17)
- e. How do you mark them? With honor, heed, help – 1Ti 5:17, 2Ti 1:3, Phil 4:3, Ro 16:3
- f. *"ensample"* – a church function. If you have none, take your pattern from Paul

3. Phil 3:18-19 – Enemies of the Cross

- a. The danger of not having a Pauline pattern, the same mind, the same rule
- b. *"even weeping"* – Not to boast or gloat over their error, but to seek them with tears
- c. *"enemies of the cross"* – the cross is the rule, it is the mind, it is the gospel.
- d. Things opposed to the cross – Rom 11:28, 1 Cor 1:17; Gal 2:21, 4:11, 5:2-4, 2 Co 11:4
- e. Enemies of the cross stand in pulpits talk/walk wrong doctrine – 1 Tim 4, 2 Tim 3:8
- f. *"God is their belly"* – which is why religion continues – 1 Sam 2:12-17, Rom 16:17-18
- g. They have replaced God with feelings and experiences as the source of truth
- h. *"glory in their shame"* – the glory is in the here & now in our flesh – 1 Cor 15:34
 - i. Friendship evangelism, hope in the healing, making a better world.
 - ii. We should glory in the cross of Christ and nothing else can we glory.
- i. *"mind earthly things"* – earthly affections, signs, kingdoms, ordinances - Col 2:20

4. Phil 3:20-21 – Our conversation in heaven

- a. The contrast is to the earthly things. Our politics is not earthly, but heavenly.
- b. Being an ambassador changes everything about how we live and minister.
- c. It is impossible to be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good.
- d. Are we neglecting the world? No, we are trying to save men from it – Gal 1:4
- e. *"change our vile body"* – which is a mystery revealed - 1 Cor 15:47-54
- f. *"fashioned like unto his"* – Remember Christ has an exalted body! Phil 2:8-9
- g. We wait for the redemption of our bodies – Rom 8:23
- h. The cross of Christ is the only way, the key to a conversation in heaven.