

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Philippians 3:17-4:1--May 21st, 2023



Sermon Recap:

Two Ways

As Paul closes his letter to the Philippians, action must be taken, a response is required from the reader. There are two paths to walk, two ways to live. Which will you choose?

I. Here & Now (v.18-19)

Paul provides characteristics of the ungodly.

a. Their god

- "god of their belly"- They live to gratify the lusts of their flesh. They possess no self-control and allow the appetites of their flesh for substance, possessions, feelings, etc to control them.

b. Their glory

- Their moral values are totally backwards. Instead of being ashamed of their sin, they boast in it.
- They reveal that their conscience is seared, getting closer and closer to a place that is beyond hope.

c. Their mind

- "set their mind on earthly things"--They live solely for the here and now.
- They are worldly. This world is their home. They think like, act like, and desire the things that this world desires.

Paul weeps for these people because (1) they are enemies of the cross, diminishing and disparaging it and (2) this type of living will inevitably lead to their destruction.

II. There & Then (v.20-21)

Paul exhorts the Philippians to follow his example of faith. He knows he isn't perfect and that he is the chief of sinners, but he follows Christ's example and as long as he follows Christ, they should follow Paul.

a. Heavenly Citizenship

- The Christian may be a citizen here, but their home is in heaven. The life is just a stop along the way as they journey to their greater destination.
- We do not live for the here and now, but for the there (heaven) and then (eternity). This type of living changes our perspectives and priorities.

b. The Coming Savior

- Viewing this life through the lens of eternity makes the believer homesick.
- We long for the day when Christ will return to collect his people, fully transforming them to his image in glory.

Which way will you live? For the here and now or the there and then?

Discussion Questions:

- How would we recognize someone who lives as an enemy of the cross?
- How is a Christian to respond to the lusts of the flesh? Read 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 2:22; 4:2.
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:1-2 and Galatians 6:14. How did Paul regard the cross of Christ?
- Why is being an enemy of the cross so tragic?
- How should a the life of a Christian be distinct as a citizen of heaven?
- What is the danger of a Christian being too "at home" in this world?
- Read verse 21. What is the ultimate hope that Christians have and what will happen on that final day?

Application:

- A mentor is someone who sets an example to others and teaches them. Is there someone who you could mentor by modeling and demonstrating the grace of God in your life? How would you plan to go about this process?
- What appetites does the world tend to seek to satisfy? Which of these do you see creeping in to your life, family, and church?
- Why is it important for you to remember that you are a citizen of heaven? What tends to distract you from keeping these truths in mind and leads you to pursue worldliness?

