

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

EVENING MESSAGE

"The Process of Pursuing Perfection"

Philippians 3:17-21

- I. FOLLOW GODLY EXAMPLES (v.17)
  - A. Follow the godly example of Paul (v.17a)
    - 1. "Followers" translates the Greek word "sumnimetes"; "sum" means together and "metes" means mimic; literally, "join me in imitating Christ"
  - B. Follow the godly example of others (v.17b)
    - 1. "Mark" translates the Greek word "skopeo", which means "to fix your gaze on"
    - 2. "Walk" describes your conduct or manner of living
    - 3. "Them" is probably a reference to Timothy and Epaphroditus
- II. FORSAKE GODLESS EXAMPLES (vv.18-19)
  - A. Their description – "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ" (v.18)
    - 1. Jesus warned about godless examples in Matthew 7:15
    - 2. Peter warned about godless examples in 2 Peter 2:1
    - 3. John warned about godless examples in 1 John 4:1
    - 4. Jude warned about in Jude 4
  - B. Their destination – "whose end is destruction" (v.19a)
    - 1. "End" means the ultimate end or ultimate destiny
    - 2. "Destruction" is a reference to hell
      - a. Matthew 7:13, "Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction"
      - b. Eight times the Greek word is translated "perdition", which means loss or ruin
      - c. The enemies of the cross will spend eternity in hell
  - C. Their desire – "whose God is their belly" (v.19b)
    - 1. Literally, "belly" means the abdomen or stomach
    - 2. Figuratively, "belly" means the innermost part of a man; the soul or heart; desires
      - a. Romans 16:18, "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly"
  - D. Their disgrace – "and who glory is in their shame" (v.19c)

1. "Shame" refers to sensual, sexual pleasures; sex has become their god
  2. They boast about what they ought to be ashamed of
- E. Their disposition – "who mind earthly things" (v.19d)
1. "Mind" means to think about or interest oneself in
  2. "Earthly things" means the world's standards
  3. These men were not saved
    - a. James 4:4, "Know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"

### III. FOCUS ON A GLORIOUS ETERNITY (vv.20-21)

- A. Our heavenly anticipation (v.20)
1. "Conversation" means "citizenship"
    - a. The same word is used in Philippians 1:27, "Only let your conversation (citizenship) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ"
    - b. Believers have a dual citizenship; down here and up there
    - c. Our focus should be on heaven
    - d. "Look for" means to eagerly look for the coming of Jesus Christ
    - e. Romans 8:19 says His return is our "earnest expectation"
- B. Our heavenly arrival (v.21)
1. When He arrives our bodies will be changed
    - a. "Vile" means lowly or humble
    - b. "Fashioned" means to be made like
    - c. We will be changed because "he is able"