

Philippians 3.12-21

Pressing on to Know Christ

Josiah > back in Istanbul > Running – Needed wi-fi see Maps of Streets

Bike thru Hutongs BJ > Map on Phone > Narrow, Windy Lanes > HOME

Need to know WHERE you ARE, are GOING, and HOW to Get THERE!

Jesus meant everything to Paul: 1.21 “to live is X, die is gain”

Ch 3 Knowing X @ Risen Lord, Empowered, Fellowship of Suffering

Central Thing for Paul “Jesus My Lord” – Not just Begin also Mature

How do we LIVE OUT our Faith in World w All its Challenges?

1. Imperfect Examples

v. 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

We might say “Do Not Imitate Me > Imitate X!” > Paul says Imitate Me!

4.9 'What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ‘

1 Corinthians 11.1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

I am Not Apostle / Pastor / Deacon > Nobody FOLLOWS Me!

NOT True: YOU only Bible some Reading – Family, Friends, Work

Thunder & Light/ Child Cry/ Mom “God w You!”/ I Need God w Skin On

“Until we see what the teaching of the gospel looks like in someone’s life we do not really understand what it means. That is why the preaching of the gospel can never be isolated from the life of the church”
Sinclair Ferguson

a) God Calls Us to Himself // CALLED UP like Military Conscript

v. 14 the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

Paul CALLED by Risen Jesus @ Damascus Rd > BEFORE by STEPHEN

Acts: Same Synagogue > Never Heard X-centered View Hebrew Scripture

A6.10 “they could not withstand the wisdom & Spirit w which speaking”

b) Christ Holds Us to It v. 14 upward call of God **in Christ Jesus**

v. 7 for the sake of X v. 8 surpassing worth of knowing X Jesus
 v. 8 that I may gain X v. 9 thru faith in X v. 12 X Jesus has made me his own
 We KNOW Christ & GROW to Know Him More and More / Friendship
 1983 Dayna & I faculty St Paul's Theological College, Arua, Uganda
 Trained esp NT > "Mark you teach OT!" – Not as Much Study
 Study Every Night – kids sleep – 1 Step ahead Students – Lantern

c) Paul Pressed On to It: Cannot Look Back & Keep Eyes Fixed on X

v. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own > Athletic Metaphors: Runners, Olympic Games
 Paul & Philipp Xtians Running Side by Side > Determined Not Distracted
 False Teachers CLAIM Perfection > Paul honest PILGRIM Struggling
 3 Tenses Salvation: Past/Present/Future / Justification/Sanctification/Glorification
 Have BEEN Saved / Am BEING Saved / WILL BE Saved

v. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I've made it my own. **But 1 thing I do**

LOOKS doing 1000 things: Caring for all churches, Apostle all Gentiles Preaching – Writing Letters – Making Tents – Shipwrecked – Prison
 Worried about friends Titus, Timothy, Luke, Epaphroditus
 Paul: I'm not doing 1000 things > Doing 1 thing 1000 Different Ways
 v. 8 the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

v. 13 forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead
 Sign Spiritual Maturity > Forget what should be Forgotten/ Forgive/Forget
 If Know X > Cannot Think of Turning Back > Only Dog returns to Vomit
 "Living in the past is to hide from the reality of the present & the challenges of future"
 To be Mature in X, Whole-Hearted Pursuit Fellowship

Looking Back makes People settle 2nd Best > Call to Move Forward in X

v. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

Watch the WISE > Cool Heads > v. 17 WALK according to My Example

Xtian Life NOT Sprint > Marathon! Daily, Continuous Activity!

Mark Twain “Lie running around world, while truth is lacing its boots!”

v. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

1912 Olympics @ Stockholm: USA Jim Thorpe HERO, Pentathlon& Decathlon

Yr Later found Thorpe made \$ playing Baseball > took away Gold Medals

Now Olympics DOMINATED by Professional Athletes / Wrong? Right?

Paul calls Philippians to Keep God’s Rules > Fair, Just, Forever True

At Name of Jesus every Knee will Bow / Tongue Confess / Glory of God

2. Treacherous Enemies

Praise Good Example Philip: Warns v. 18 ‘many whom I have often told’

Paul REMINDS Philippians of his Example > Bad Examples have Come

Matt 7.13 “Enter by narrow gate. For the gate is wide & the way is easy that leads to destruction & those who enter by it are **many**. For the gate is narrow & the way is hard that leads to life & those who find it are few.

1.15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry

1.17 some proclaim X out of selfish ambition, not sincerely

3.2 'Look out for the dogs, the evildoers, those who mutilate the flesh.'

Deep Concern for Lost v. 18 “tell you even w TEARS” / No Gloating, Joy

Spurgeon “I never want to preach about HELL w/out TEARS in my eyes”

a) v. 18 walk as enemies of the cross of Christ

Cross Foundation > Center Point True Doctrine & True Practice

Considering > Church, Pastor, Ministry “what do they think about cross?”

ISLAM – Koran says 5 X’s ‘ISA (Jesus) did NOT Die on the Cross

Mormon's – Cross on Building? Spire! > Lie of Serpent: You will be God!

JW True Believer WORKS for their Favor from God > HUMAN MERIT

Roman Cath Mass = SACRIFICE – Lit. Body/Blood – Saving Sacrament

RC M's Uganda – Friends, Helped Us – Motorcycle into Bush > MASS!

v. 18 WALK as enemies of the cross of Christ / Habit, Pattern of Life

Cross ONLY way to be Forgiven > How dare we Deny or Ignore It!

Heb 10.10,14 we've been sanctified thru offering of the body of Jesus X once for all...by single offering he has perfected for all time those being sa

Gal 6.14 'far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus

b) v. 19 God is their Belly = Love & Loyalty is for 'sensual appetites'

Reject Christian Living > Teach Self-Denying Loyalty to God?

Or are Lives Marked by Greedy Self-Indulgence?

“focus remains on shameful, earthly, fleshly things as opposed to glorious things of God, find glory in what they should have found shameful”

20 yrs ago Church Growth Record #'s South Korea > KZ Sem FUNDED!

Visited 20+ churches Spoke > Pastor KINGS Car/Chauffer, Houses, Stuff!

If you want to Pay Me More Money > I would Not Complain!

Pt: S.Korean Young People leaving churches: Jesus Peasant, Not Prince

Would Paul fly in Private Jets of Famous Pastors? Overnight in Mansions?

c) v. 19 Minds Set on Earthly Things > Religious Grifters in 1st C too

Hidden Agenda behind their Activities > Betrays message of Gospel

False Teaching often results in Immoral Behavior > 2 Peter and Jude

Wrong View of God & Salvation > If believe LIES, Free Fulfill LUSTS

Paul NOT saying Physical Needs NOT Important > Physical & Spiritual

If all we do is focus on the next meal or glory in earthly achievements and sinful, fleshly desires rather than focus on Christ, then we are against X.

d) v. 19 End is Destruction > they GLORY in what is really SHAME

1 Corinthians 1.18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Ideas have Consequences > Wrong Ideas about God have Eternal Conseq

3. Inspired by Eternity

a) We are Not Home Yet v. 20 “our citizenship is in heaven”

Philippi > Mini Rome: Colony, Law, Dress, Latin, Architecture, Citizens

John 17.14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because ***they are not of the world***, just as I am not of the world. 15 ***I do not ask that you take them out of the world***, but that you keep them from the evil one...18As you sent me into the world, so ***I have sent them into the world***. In, not of, sent into > IN, NOT OF, SENT INTO

We should Stand Out from World because we Do Not Fit In

Want to Change World > Must be DIFFERENT from the WORLD

b) We are Not Ready Yet v. 21 “our lowly bodies”

Pills – Creams – Diets – Supplements – Massages – Spas – Therapies

Expiration Date on “our lowly bodies” We came from Dust going to Dust

ONE Enemy of Cross of Christ > Mary Baker Eddy Xtian Scientists

Sin – Death – Hell NOT EXIST – Just BAD THOUGHTS / Phantom

Xtian Scientist // Grape Nuts – Not Grapes/Nuts // Not Xtians or Scientists

Both Grandfathers Xtian Scientists > Grandmother > Mother > Died Week

Grandmother Xtian > Sisters begged Grandpa call Docs > More Readers!

Finally DR. “too late, you don’t need me, you need an undertaker!”

Devil/Thief comes to Kill, Steal, Destroy > Jesus: Abundant, Eternal Life

v. 21 Jesus...will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body

Genesis 2.7 Lowly Body from Dust of Earth – weakened by sin, disease

Death & Disintegration will be Transformed by the Risen/Returning X

Wedding Garments for Hebrew Wedding > sign of Respect and Honor

Symbolized Purity & Readiness for celebration Joy and Solemnity

Forever Wedding of Lord Jesus > Bride wearing Spotless Garment

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready...fine linen, bright and pure” Rev 19.7,8

c) Christ has Made All Things Ready v. 21 the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

We are Already Where We Will Live > 90 X's Paul “In Christ”

Ephesians 2.5,6 by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Colossians 3.1 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God”

2.10 at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

We will all Stand Before X and give Account of our Lives

1.10 'be pure and blameless for the day of Christ'

Paul ANTICIPATES a BODY & Physical Life in World to Come in X

1 Cor 15.49-52 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven...flesh & blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in twinkling of an eye, at last trumpet.

College Prof > called this week > 90 yrs Old / Wife: Senile / He Shrunk

Preached / Visited > Uganda, Kazakhstan, Beijing

If you INVITE me to come and Preach I would be GLAD to Do So!

LIE – So Heavenly Minded NO Earthly Good // TRUTH People Know HOME SECURE in
Heaven do MOST Good on Earth

We have a future to which not all the immediate gratification in the world can compare!

C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity – When we stand before God on the final day, all external advantages and disadvantages will dissolve, and our true selves, the part of us that chooses good or ill, obedience or disobedience, will remain. Then we will see ourselves as we really are, and this moment of revelation will contain surprises.

Psalm 82 // God has taken his place in the divine council; // **in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:** // “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? // **Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;** // maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. / **Rescue the weak and the needy;** // deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” // **They have neither knowledge nor understanding,** // they walk about in darkness; // **all the foundations of the earth are shaken.** // I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; // **nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.**” // Arise, O God, judge the earth; **for you shall inherit all the nations! Amen and Amen.**