

Philippians 3:17-21

Keys to Faithfulness

Paul had just encouraged us to pursuit Christ as a lifelong endeavor (vv. 12-16), and he now points out some specific things that can serve as motivation to help us along the way.

> Paul encourages the Philippians to follow the example of godly people. What are the benefits of having godly people to look up to? They show that living godly is possible in today's world, can offer helpful advice, can show us how to be leaders also.

> Paul warns us about those who do not set a godly example. In your own words, how does Paul describe these people in verse 19? Their way of living is heading toward their own destruction; they only care about their own interests; they take pride in things they should be ashamed of; are only focused on earthly things.

> What things does Paul point out in verses 20-21 concerning our future and how should those truths motivate us to live for God now? 1) Our citizenship/future home will be with the Lord. 2) Christ will return. 3) We'll have a glorified body (free of sin, pain, (etc.)) = our struggles now are temporary; thus, it will all be worth it.

Application

The exciting truths of God's Word, matched with the influence of godly people, are key sources of encouragement that help us keep our focus on Christ each day. Consider:

- Who are you looking up to? Remember, the people you follow will either draw you closer to the Lord or pull you away from Him.
- What are you looking forward to? Anticipating the glorious promises of our future with Christ will help us see the issues of this life in a proper perspective!

Holding to truth and following the lead of godly people will turn you into a leader that others will strive to follow as well!

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