

Philippians

(14) Beware who you follow

Phil 3:17-21

17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. NIV

Following Paul's example for living...3:17-4:1

In light of 'maturity' (3:15), what does Paul encourage the Philippians to do? 3:17; ICor.11:1

Join with other brothers to follow Paul's example. Note them. Not perfect but working!

In this context, what was breaking his heart? 3:18; Acts 20:17-35, vs.30

He knew of many 'so-called' believers who were now evident to be enemies of the Cross.

What does it mean to be an 'enemy of the cross of Christ'? Gal.6:14; Col.1:19-20; IPet.2:24

It means to reject the atonement. The substitutionary death of Christ. The Gospel itself.

What are some other truths about these liars? IICor.11:13-15; IJn.4:1-3; IIJn.7-11

They are clever, deceptive, counterfeit Christians. They know about Him, but not Him.

Through his tears, what does Paul acknowledge about their fate? 3:19a

Their destiny (ultimate goal) is destruction (total ruin/loss). This is the lake of fire.

What is the first characteristic of these false teachers? 3:19b; Rom.16:17-18

Their god is their stomach! That is, they are 'spiritual' because of what they do/don't eat!

What is the second thing Paul identifies about them? 3:19; see ICor.5:1-2

They brag of their greatest shame! Boasting of 'freedom'? Possibly sexual/homosexual.

What is the third thing Paul identifies? 3:19; Rom.8:5-7; IIPet.2:1-3

Their attitude is wholly focused on the flesh, the things of this present world system.

What should our attitude be about these false teachers? Mt.7:15; IIPet.2:1-3; Jude17-23

Discernment! Identify/reject their teaching. Purge them from the church. But save some!

But, our citizenship is in heaven! ...3:20-4:1

In contrast to these false teachers, what marks the true believer? 3:20a

Our citizenship (our true home) is in heaven! Not in this present world system. Aliens!

What is the blessed hope of the true believer? 3:20b

We are eagerly waiting for the imminent return of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When He returns what will happen to the true believers? 3:21; ICor.15:50-58 (rapture)

Changed, transformed, in the twinkling of an eye, to have bodies like His. What a hope!!

How does Paul want us to 'use' this great hope? 4:1; Rom.5:1-2; ICo.15:1

Use this truth (citizenship, rapture) to stand firm in the Lord. And above all, stand!

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