



# *Paul's Epistle to the Philippians*

## *Philippians 3:17-19 "Following Paul's Walk"*

- ***Review - Philippians 3:12-16, The Call in Christ Jesus***
  - Like an Olympiad, Paul is *pressing on* to experience all that the Lord Jesus Christ above has *laid out* for him.
  - And to the mature and less mature *in mind*, Paul encourages all to *walk* as heavenly citizens.
- ***Philippians 3:17 - Brethren, be followers together (symmimētēs) of me, and mark them that walk so as ye have us as an example (ILG).***
  - Is Paul being a bit cocky here?
    - Darby – ‘Paul might indeed boast, if needful, in that which belonged to the flesh. As to all Jewish privileges, he possessed them in the highest degree. He had outstripped everyone in holy zeal against innovators. One thing alone had changed it all-he had seen a glorified Christ. All that he had according to the flesh was thenceforth loss to him.’
    - No, this life of Paul's is by God's grace, and the new life is Him!!!!!!!
      - » *1 Cor 11:1 - Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*



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» *Phil 1:21 – For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*

- Notice also that Paul states that this example is not only about himself, but *us* – perhaps Timothy and Epaphroditus also?
- Moreover, Paul in 3:3-14 had already described the uplifted Christian life.
- Wuest – “The word "*mark*" is the translation of a word which means "to fix the attention upon with a desire for or interest in." It means "to observe intently.”
- And this observation is a pattern of behavior that glorifies our Heavenly Father!

» *Phil 4:9 - The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

- ***Philippians 3:18 - 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:***

- It appears that this topic is not a new one - *I have told you often.*
- So, who are these *enemies of the cross of Christ* and how are they distinguished by their *walk*?



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- Wuest – ‘The individuals spoken of in these verses are not Judaizers but **professed Christian Greeks of Epicurean tendencies**. The Epicureans represented a Greek school of philosophy which taught that the satisfaction of the physical appetites was the highest aim of man. **They had allowed their Christian liberty to degenerate into license (Gal 5:13)**. They did not understand God's grace and thus thought lightly of continuing in sin (Rom 6:1,15). They were engrossed only in self-indulgence (Rom 16:18). **A swing away from legalism would land such a person into anti-nomianism, namely, lawlessness.**’



- McCalley – ‘To be an enemy of the cross of Christ means to live in a way that contradicts what the cross of Christ stands for. **For the Judaizers, enmity to the cross was expressed by refusal to believe in its total adequacy. For the unrestrained, enmity toward the cross was expressed by refusing to respond to its demands for holiness.**’<sub>3</sub>



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- And Paul is even *weeping* (*lamenting*).
  - Paul is passionate, isn't he!
    - » *2 Cor 2:4 - For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.*
- Do you think that these individuals were in the church, and if so how/why, is there no discipline?
  - » *Heb 10:29 - Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*
- *Philippians 3:19 - whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*
  - What *end is destruction* (*apōleia*)?
    - Strong's - In particular, the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life, eternal misery, perdition,
    - But not according to McCalley!



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- McCalley – ‘The word *destruction* does not mean annihilation. It refers to loss of well being, never to extinction of being.’
- However, most translations/commentaries are c/w perdition!
  - » *2 Thess 2:3 - Let no one deceive you by any means; for unless the falling away comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,*
  - **Constable** – ‘The context does not specify whether these people were Christians or not, but antinomianism was common among both groups in Paul's day, as it is today. Consequently, **we should probably understand "destruction" in a general sense. The same Greek word (*apoleia*) occurs in 1:28 where it probably refers to unbelievers and eternal destruction.**’
- *whose god is their belly.*
  - *belly* is best translated as *gullet* that implies that part of the body that is given up to the pleasures of the palate, to gluttony.
    - Wuest – ‘Paul, acquainted with the Greek classics, writing to Greeks who knew their own literature speaks of these as **having their belly as their God.** He probably was thinking of the **Cyclops in Euripedes who says, "My**



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**flocks which I sacrifice to no one but myself, and not to the gods, and to this my belly, the greatest of the gods: for to eat and drink each day, and to give oneself no trouble, this is the god of wise men."**

» *Rom 16:18 - For those who are such do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

– *and whose glory is in their shame*

- Is their addiction to lusts?
- Why/how/when does *shame* arise?

» *Eph 5:12,13 - For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*

. *who set their mind on earthly things*

- In contrast, to what/whom we as believers should direct our minds towards?

» *2 Peter 2:18 - For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who are escaping from those who live in error.*

» *Rom 8:5 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*