

Members' Handout - Philippians 3:12-4:1

Series: Philippians



1. Paul says he has not obtained "this" in v12. What does "this" refer to? (Refer Phil 3:7-11)
2. What is Paul's goal and prize in life? How is it rooted in the person and work of Christ (v12-14)?
3. According to Paul, what have the Philippians "attained" through Christ (v16) and what are they waiting for (v20)?
4. What are the two kinds of citizenship that Paul contrasts in v18-19 and v20-21? How do these citizenships shape the way that they live their lives?
5. Paul describes the enemies of the cross as those whose "end is destruction...god is their belly...glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things." Consider the desires and fears we may have felt this week. Which citizenship – earthly or heavenly – is our lives shaped by?
6. How might setting our minds on earthly things obscure what Christ has attained for us at the cross (v16) and what we are awaiting (v20)?
7. How do our heavenly citizenship and the riches we have in the gospel encourage us as we work out our sanctification? How might it shape what we consider our "goal and prize" in life?
8. Think about certain leaders and role models in the church. How might aspects of their lives be consistent with what Paul says as "those who walk according to the example you have in us (v17)"? How can their walk encourage our sanctification?
9. Read the Heidelberg Catechism Q1 and meditate on what it means to "belong to Jesus Christ":

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul, in life and in death²—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵ He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20

² Rom. 14:7-9

³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14

⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2

⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11

⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5

⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

⁸ Rom. 8:28

⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17