



Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 3:15-4:1 | Mark Foreman | Oct 27, 2024

(Slides 1-3)

Pulpit notes about election: Pray, Vote, Love, Pursue

Slide 4-11

Phil. 3:15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Phil. 3:17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you 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 set 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.

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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🚩 Martin Luther's Peasant on a horse—legalism/performance and hedonism/cheap grace. Woman arrested with a DUI in Lakeland, Florida recently for riding a horse on the Hwy while drunk (2017).

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❖ Maturity Is Eagerly Pursuing Christ (15-17)

Slide 14-16

Phil 3:15-17 "All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."

➤ *All of us who are mature should take such a view—hunger and humility.*

- What view is Paul talking about?
- He's pointing back to the thought he expressed in vv 12-14.

Slide 17-19

- *Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

➤ This has incredible irony:

- Mature people (*teleioi*; "complete perfect") should not think or act as if they've arrived—spiritual smugness, because you haven't arrived.

- Mature people *press on* to grab that for which Christ grab me.
- Mature people should behave like eager, hungry newbies.

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Down is up (last is first, least is greatest)

1Cor. 2:1 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

Phil. 2:5 *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing (emptied himself).*

- *If differently . . . that too God will make clear to you*

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And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

- Confident and casual that God will teach them.
- We don't have to scream and yell or squish them. God's got this.

- Following examples and models (16-17)

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Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."

- So when we see a person who exemplifies this, follow him.
- How would you know if someone had been around Jesus for a long time? We usually look at quantity of scriptures, courses, services—external labels. How about quality: hunger/thirst, humility, confident in God's faithfulness, wonder, and full of love.
- Just say NO, to being smug or stagnation.
- **Slide 23**

- ♥ Man coming out of the jungle. (Still doing it)

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❖ The Heartache of Apostates (18-19)

Slide 25-26

¹⁸ *For, as I have often told you before and now tell you 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 set on earthly things.*

- ♥ Two parables: Shepherd who leaves 99 for the one. Who protects from thieves.
- ♥ Deconstructionism—de-believing and believing something else: new faith.

- Enemies of the cross

Slide 25

- *Tears*—Paul feels it like a mother feels about lost children.

- What would an enemy of the cross do or be?
- They believe or trust in something else now.

♥ Jesus over Jerusalem

♥ Just yesterday on a CS Lewis post...

- Who were these apostates pursuing now instead of Christ

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- *Their god is their bell--wants.*
- Their glory (importance) is their shame.
- Greed and pride seem to be prime motivators—it is a belief or religion.
- Anyone's ultimate concern is their religion.

♥ Honest doubters

- Their thinking habits were on earthly things not pursuing Christ.

- Something else they want to do.
- Wealth, fame, pleasure
- Ultimately **using God** to move our ego downfield.

♥

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❖ The Fulfillment is Coming (3:20-4:1)

Slide 28-30

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.*

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

♥

- Our citizenship is in heaven

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- Our ultimate hope and destination is in heaven not here.
- We are to behave as citizens of heaven.
- Our enemies are not of flesh and blood (Eph 3:12). If I hate people then our true enemy has won.
- The more we aim through this world toward heaven, the more we will influence this world.
- The more we aim at this world the more we will look like this world.
- CS Lewis: *Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.*

♥ We are never voting for Jesus in the Whitehouse.

♥ If I am

♥ Egypt

➤ We eagerly await a Savior

- *Eagerly await*—hears that hunger and thirst of maturity again.
- *A savior*—not just the forgiver of our sins, but the savior of all things.

➤ Who will bring everything under his control

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- *Everything under his control*—benevolent monarchy (All powerful, all loving and humble).

♥ What if our government did everything good, loving and perfect and it came from one man who was the humblest of all?

♥ Eddie Waxer

- Democracy is imperfect people voting with imperfect thinking with imperfect information over an imperfect institution made up of imperfect people.
- And he will reign forever and ever.

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Rev. 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

*“The kingdom of the world has become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,
and he will reign for ever and ever.”*

➤ And transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body

Slide 29

- Transform our frail, mortal bodies into glorious, lasting bodies.
- Everyone has a difference—a part of us that is imperfect that we hide.
- Everyone of us will die—only people in the 3rd chapter of their lives seem to be wise enough to be aware.
- This is not the end of the story, therefore . . .

♥ Butterfly in the chrysalis will be complete.

➤ Therefore stand firm!

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- “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so...”
- Stand firm in who Jesus is, what he has done and your eagerness to know Him more and see Him soon.

♥ Have you heard the good news? To the Gardener.

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♥ When my nephew Daniel became a citizen.

❖ **Taking It Home**

- Philippians ch 3 highlights two common mistakes in our spiritual journey, legalism (performance for God's and man's approval) and hedonism (simply pleasing our lower nature and pushing pause on our pursuit of Christ. Which one do you think you are most vulnerable to?
- Paul in v. 17 speaks of examples and models for us to follow as believers. Do you have someone you can learn from their example? Is there someone you can mentor?
- In vv. 20-21 Paul writes about the culmination of all things. There are two things he highlights that will happen, what are they?
- Paul beautifully expresses his heart for the readers calling the Philippians his joy and crown. Who do you feel that what about? Spend time praying for them.
- Reread vv 13-14 and make that your life commitment.