

LESSON 12

Philippians 3:17-21



Citizens of Heaven

OPEN IT

1. What is your dream vacation? Where would you go, what would you do, and who would you go with?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Philippians 3:17-21

2. What does Paul ask the Philippians to join in?
3. What happened to many that Paul talked about?
4. What will become of believers?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Read Philippians 3:17-19

Paul speaks about how everyone can choose one of two options: following selfish desires or following selfless desires. Following what you want or following what Jesus wants for you. And consistently choosing one over the other makes your life radically different from someone who consistently chooses the other. For people who choose what they want, they become enemies of Jesus and their end is destruction.

We need to be choosing what Jesus wants for us over what we selfishly want for ourselves. We can do this through joining the people around us who are following Jesus. We can also identify things that get in our way of choosing Jesus over ourselves. Once we identify these things, we need to do whatever we can in order to not let them be a hindrance to our following Jesus. Sometimes this looks like changing the way we do them in order to glorify God through them, sometimes we need to give them up for a time in order to refocus on Jesus, but sometimes we need to give them up entirely.

5. Paul was given to the Philippians as an example to follow to make sure that they were growing to look more like Jesus. Who are some people in your life that you can follow, having confidence they are following Jesus? In what ways do you see them following Jesus?

6. Paul warns us about the destruction we face for becoming an enemy of Jesus. What are some things that might compete with your relationship with Jesus? What should you do about them?

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: TRUST THE PROCESS

Read Philippians 3:20-21

“Do you know that your citizenship is in heaven, that you have been born from above? We should live as citizens of a better country, a heavenly Kingdom. Don't love the world or the things of this world, but be loyal to Him who rules in the heavenly Jerusalem. When Christ comes, He will change these bodies of ours into bodies like His own, fit for His heavenly kingdom.

Christ's residence was for 33 years here on earth, but it did not naturalize Him as a citizen of earth. Let us not forget where our citizenship is. Remember Paul's advice in Romans 12:2: 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'"¹

7. We are not going to live perfect lives this side of heaven, but it is clear in the passage that we are citizens of Heaven and our lives should reflect that. What does it look like to be a citizen of Heaven while here on earth?

8. Paul writes in Romans and Philippians about how we will experience the transformation of our minds and bodies. What is one way you can experience the start of this transformation of your mind and body?

¹ Mears, Dr. Henrietta C. *What the Bible is All About*. Regal Books, 2002. Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church. www.villagebible.church