

Subject: *Walking on the Road to Glory*
Scripture: *Philippians 3:17-21*

The context of this passage is pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (vs. 14). In one sense the Christian life is like a race that requires endurance and intense effort, and in another sense the Christian life is like a walk that requires consistency and faithfulness. Paul refers to our race in verses 13-14, and then he refers to our walk in verses 16-17. In both ways Paul is describing our Christian life.

1. THE EXAMPLES FOR A BELIEVER'S WALK (vs. 17)

Paul encouraged believers to follow his example and the example of other believers who were walking with Christ. Christ is the perfect example and model for us to follow, but He never pursued perfection; He has always been perfect. On the other hand, Paul and other godly people never attain perfection in this life. They are not perfect examples, but they are good, worthy examples.

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

“Mark them” (Phil. 3:17) means to look at, observe, and consider them. We need to watch how we are walking and who we are walking with. The Bible describes the Christian walk:

- We walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7)
- We walk in the truth (3 Jn. 3, 4)
- We walk in Christ (Col. 2:6)
- We walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)
- We walk in good works (Eph. 2:10)
- We walk worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1)
- We walk in love (Eph. 5:2)
- We walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8)
- We walk as Christ walked (1 Jn. 2:6)
- We walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)
- We walk in wisdom (Col. 4:5)

Before salvation we were walking like all lost people walk. We were in step with the world and the devil.

Ephesians 2:1-2 *And you hath he quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*

Now as believers the Bible tells us who to walk with and who not to walk with.

Psalms 1:1-2¹ *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor*

standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Proverbs 13:20 *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

Ephesians 4:17-18 ¹⁷ *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.*

Before we leave this first part of the message I want to ask two questions: Do you walk with people who are good examples? Are you a good example for a new Christian to walk with?

2. THE ENEMIES OF A BELIEVER'S WALK (vs. 18-19)

There are many enemies to be avoided. With a broken heart Paul warned them about people who were enemies of the cross (vs. 18-19). That means they were the enemies of Christ and of believers. He had warned them on many occasions about the dangers of these false teachers, as Christ had warned, and others had warned. These were people who professed to be Christians but actually they were wolves in sheep's clothing.

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

- A. Their destruction – They were not headed for heaven; they were headed for hell.
- B. Their desires – They lived to satisfy their physical appetites. The word “belly” or stomach refers to fleshly, bodily desires.
- C. Their disgrace – They were proud when they should have been ashamed.
- D. Their disposition – They had a worldly, earthly focus.

James 4:4 *Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

1 John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

3. THE EXPECTATION OF A BELIEVER'S WALK (vs. 20-21)

Our walk has a destination. We're on our way home.

- A. We have our citizenship in heaven

Paul reminds believers that right now we are citizens of heaven (vs. 20, conversation). Philippi was a Roman colony and therefore its residents were Roman citizens with all the rights and privileges. According to Scripture, the most important things about us are connected to heaven: our Father is there (Mt. 6:9), our treasure is there (6:20), our names are written in heaven (Lk. 10:20), our permanent home is there (Jn. 14:2), our Savior is there (Acts 1:11), fellow believers are there (Heb. 12:23), and our inheritance is in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4). This affects how we live and walk.

Colossians 3:2 *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

B. We look for our Savior from heaven

We look for (eagerly wait for) Christ to come from heaven (1 Th. 4:13-18; Tit. 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:2-3). We are to wait patiently, but with great anticipation. The return of Christ is mentioned in 23 out of 27 NT books. The hope of Christ's coming is not a wish for something that *may* happen, but an assurance of something that *will* happen, even though we don't know the exact time.

Psalms 73:24 *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*

C. We will have a new body in heaven

The body we have now is a vile body (lowly body, lit, body of humiliation) body, but Christ will change our lowly, humble body to be like His glorious body.

1 Corinthians 15:35-57

Our earthly body is subject to disease, deformity, decay, disability, and death. This transformation will take place by His unlimited divine power (vs. 21). Christ has power to create and overrule natural laws. Those who are already dead in Christ, but alive with Him in spirit in heaven, will receive new bodies at the resurrection and rapture of the church. Those then living on earth will have their bodies transformed also.

We are to walk by looking to godly examples for inspiration and instruction.
We are to walk by looking out for enemies of Christ who would lead us astray.
We are to walk by looking ahead to Christ's return and heaven where we will have a redeemed spirit and a glorified body. The best is yet to come. We will be with Christ; we will be like Christ; and we will enjoy and worship Him forever.