

## Philippians 3:17-21 Discussion Guide

### General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?
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### Topics for Discussion:

- The Gospel
- Godly Examples
- False teachers/ False gospel
- Judgement
- Our Resurrection

### Intro/icebreaker:

What's the worst piece of advice you've ever been given?

### Discussion Questions:

? – Since we are Citizens of Heaven, that means we are foreigners or tourists on earth. What distinctive characteristics of a heavenly citizen do you see in chapter 3:17-21? What about the rest of the book of Philippians? Other passages that come to mind?

? - We need examples (mentors) in our walk who motivate and encourage us.

In verse 17 the Greek word Paul uses for pattern (nasb) or example (esv) is tupos. It refers to a stamp or dye that imprints something, leaving a pattern or print on the object. How has Christ left a pattern and print on your life? How should mentors leave a pattern or print on the lives of the people they lead?

? - Share about someone whose example or influence had a significant impact on you. What were some qualities that stood out in that person's life?

? - Who can you be an example to?

? – Why is Paul tearful? Why does Paul deal so strongly with some of those who teach differently than he does?

? - What kind of false teaching was present in the early church?<sup>1</sup> What kind is present today?

? - What characterizes the people described in verses 18-19? How does it compare/contrast with those who are following the right pattern and are citizens of heaven?

? - Verse 19 says that the enemies of the cross have destruction as their end. What does that mean? What thoughts or questions do you have about the doctrine of hell and the wrath of God? How should this doctrine impact our lives?

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<sup>1</sup> - Legalists: those who believed in strict adherence to the law, a works-based faith

- Antinomianists: those who believed in no law; all action is permitted

- Judaizers: those who believed one must be a Jew, living by Jewish standards

- Gnostics: those who believed the material/physical was evil, and only the spirit mattered, therefore allowing wayward actions in the flesh

? - Verses 20-21 describe how Christians will get an upgrade when our bodies are transformed! Every citizen of heaven will get a resurrected, glorified body.

- The word Paul uses for *transformed* is *metaschématizó*. It means *to transfigure*, making an internal *and* external change.
- At the resurrection, we'll get a resurrected body like Jesus': "we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2). We'll have new capabilities, and the glorified, upgraded, renewed body is for every believer.
- What are you looking forward to!?