

## LESSON 8: Living in the Future Tense

### *Philippians 3:17-21*

This lesson continues with the Idea of the thief of "things," which must be combatted by becoming "spiritually minded;" the lesson further covers Paul's future, being an alien, new vision and the KEY WORDS: "I LOOK."

Paul has a spiritual mind, he is heartbroken by the way some professed Christians are living: people who mind \_\_\_\_\_.

To be "spiritually minded" simply means to look at earth from heaven's point of view.

*Colossians 3:2: "Practice occupying your minds with the things above, not with the things on earth."* Christians have a dual citizenship on earth and in heaven, and our citizenship in heaven ought to make us better people here on earth.

Moses refused the pleasures and treasures of Egypt because he had something infinitely more wonderful to live for (*Hebrews 11 :24-26*). *"For our citizenship is in heaven..." (Philippians 3:20)*. The Greek word translated " \_\_\_\_\_ " or " \_\_\_\_\_ " is the word from which we get the English word "politics."

\_\_\_\_\_. Paul is encouraging us to have the " \_\_\_\_\_ ," pointing out the characteristics of the Christian whose citizenship is in heaven. Just as Philippi was a colony of Rome on foreign soil, so the church is a "colony of heaven" on earth:

1. Our names are on record in heaven. The citizens of Philippi were privileged to be Roman citizens away from Rome. When a baby was born in Philippi, It was important to

register its name on the legal -records in Rome. When a lost sinner trusts Christ and becomes a citizen of heaven, his name is written in **"the book of life."** (**Philippians 4:3**)

2. We speak heaven's language. Those who " \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " talk about earthly things. After all, what comes out of the mouth reveals what is in the heart (**Matthew 12:34-37**).
3. We obey heaven's laws. The citizens of Philippi were governed by Roman law, not Greek law, even though they were hundreds of miles from Rome. In fact, it was this policy that put Paul in jail when he first visited Philippi (**Acts 16:16-24**). Paul used his Roman citizenship to secure his protection under Roman law. Paul then knew he was an \_\_\_\_\_ in this world, a "pilgrim and stranger." His life was governed by heaven's law and this is what made him different.
4. He is loyal to heaven's cause. The cross of Jesus is the theme of the Bible, the heart of the gospel and the chief source of praise in heaven (**Revelations 5:8-10**).
5. We are looking for heaven's Lord. True Christians live in the future tense, anticipating the return of their Savior (**Philippians 3:20-21**).

First, Paul referred to himself as the accountant who discovered new values, then as the athlete who displayed new vigor, and, finally, as the alien, he experiences \_\_\_\_\_: "we look for the Savior."

Because Abraham looked for a city, he was content to live in a tent. Because Moses looked for the rewards of heaven, he was willing to forsake the treasures of earth. Because of the joy set before Him, Jesus was willing to endure the cross.

When Jesus returns, He will *"subdue all things unto Himself" (Philippians 3:21b)*. The word "subdue" means \_\_\_\_\_.

Isn't that our problem today? We do not arrange things in their proper order. Our priorities are twisted.

## LESSON 9: You Don't Have to Worry

### *Philippians 4:1-9*

I. *Philippians 4:1-9*: If anyone had an excuse for worrying, It was the Apostle Paul. His beloved and longed-for friends at Philippi, his joy and crown, were disagreeing with one another, and he was not there to help. He was facing \_\_\_\_\_ with believers in Rome, and added to all this, he was facing possible death. He had good excuses for worrying, but he did not. He took time to explain to them his secret to victory over worry.

What is worry? The Greek word translated "anxious" (careful) in verse six means "to be pulled in different directions." Our \_\_\_\_\_ pull us in one direction; our \_\_\_\_\_ pull us in the opposite direction, and we are pulled apart! The old English root from which we get our word "worry" means "\_\_\_\_\_."

From the spiritual point of view, worry is \_\_\_\_\_ (the mind) and \_\_\_\_\_ about circumstances, people and things. Worry is the greatest thief of Joy. Telling ourselves to "quit worrying" will never capture the thief.

Worry is an "inside job," and It takes more than good Intentions to get the victory. The antidote to worry is the "\_\_\_\_\_:" *"And the peace of God shall keep (garrison, guard like a soldier) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7)*. When you have the secure mind, the peace of God

\_\_\_\_\_ (*Philippians 4:7*), and the God of peace \_\_\_\_\_! (*Philippians 4:9*). If we are to conquer worry and experience the secure mind, we must meet the conditions God has laid down. There are three conditions: right praying (*Philippians 4:6-7*); right thinking (*Philippians 4:8*), and right living (*Philippians 4:9*).

1. Right \_\_\_\_\_ (*Philippians 4:6-7*): Paul uses three different words to describe "right praying:" \_\_\_\_\_. The word "prayer" is the \_\_\_\_\_. It carries the Idea of adoration, devotion and worship. In adoration we see the \_\_\_\_\_. In supplication there is an \_\_\_\_\_. After adoration and supplication comes appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_. (See *Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:15-17*). Certainly the Father enjoys hearing His children say, "Thank you." You will note that this kind of praying is not a thing every Christian can do immediately because \_\_\_\_\_. This is why \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The second condition for victory over worry is \_\_\_\_\_ (*Philippians 4:8*). "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee*" (*Isaiah 26:3*). Wrong thinking leads to \_\_\_\_\_, and before long, the heart and mind are pulled apart and strangled. We must bring our thoughts into \_\_\_\_\_. Paul spells out in detail what we ought to think as Christians: Whatever is true \_\_\_\_\_; Whatever is honest and just \_\_\_\_\_; Whatever is pure, lovely and of a good report \_\_\_\_\_; Whatever possesses virtue and praise \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Right \_\_\_\_\_ (*Philippians 4:9*). You cannot separate outward action and inward attitude. Sin always results in unrest (unless the conscience has been seared). *Isaiah*

**32:17 says, "And the work of righteousness shall, be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and peace."** Right living is a necessary condition for experiencing the peace of God. Paul balances four activities: "learned and received" and "heard and seen." It is one thing to \_\_\_\_\_ a truth, but quite another to \_\_\_\_\_ inwardly and make it a part of our Inner man. We must have \_\_\_\_\_ In the heart and not just \_\_\_\_\_ in the head.

The "peace of God" is one test of whether or not we are in the will of God. **"Let the peace that Christ can give keep on acting as umpire in your hearts."** (Colossians 3:15).

## II. **Philippians 4:10-23:** The Secret of Contentment:

"The trouble with him is that he is a thermometer and not a thermostat." This statement from a deacon aroused the curiosity of the Pastor. They were discussing possible board members, and this man's name had come up. The deacon explained, "A thermometer doesn't change anything around it; it just registers the temperature. It is always going up and down. But a thermostat regulates the surroundings and changes them when they need to be changed. He lacks the power to change things. Instead they change him!"

The Apostle Paul was a thermostat. Instead of having spiritual ups and downs as the situation changed, he went right on, steadily doing his work and serving Christ. His personal references at the close of this letter indicate that he was not the victim of circumstances but the victor over circumstances: **"I can accept all things..." (Philippians 4:11); "I can do all things..." (Philippians 4:13); "I have all things..." (Philippians 4:18).** Paul did not have to be pampered to be content. He was not a high maintenance Christian and Apostle. He found his contentment in the spiritual resources abundantly provided by Christ.

Contentment is not \_\_\_\_\_. It is not escaping from the battle, but rather an abiding peace and confidence in the midst thereof. Two words in verse 11 are of vital

Importance: 1. Learned: \_\_\_\_\_; 2. Content:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Paul names three wondrous spiritual resources that make us adequate and give us contentment:

1. The overruling providence of God (*Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 4:10*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The unfailing power of God (*Philippians 4:11-13*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The unchanging promise of God (*Philippians 4:14-20*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Putting Philippians to Work:

1. Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day.
2. Let the Holy Spirit renew your mind through the Word.
3. As you pray, ask God to give you that day a single mind, a submissive mind, a spiritual mind, and a secure mind.

4. During the day, "mind your mind!"

5. Guard the gates of your mind.