



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1” ON MARCH 8 + 12, 2023

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 **STAND FIRM!** Paul uses this phrase a lot in his writings – the idea is directly tied to WHO Jesus is and WHAT He does, for we can do nothing on our own! We need Jesus, and Paul wove this theme through his letter to the Church at Philippi, describing what it LOOKS LIKE to stand firm in Jesus' strength.

**STANDING FIRM:** What do you stand firm for?

- What do you stand firm for in your physical life – your ideas, social and cultural values, your family, your career, your social relationships, etc.?
- How much thought have you given to what standing firm looks like as far as your faith has been concerned? Have you had the opportunity/challenge to really express what that means for you? How do you stand firm?

**STANDING FIRM:** Imitate! In vs. 17 Paul calls the Philippians to imitate him and others who are following the example of Jesus.....

- From the earlier chapters of this letter and from Paul's other writings, what all do you think Paul is referring to when he speaks of his being a model or pattern for others to follow?
- Has there been someone in your life who has been a wonderful example of walking with Jesus? What qualities about their walk modeled Jesus and impacted your own walk with Him?

**STANDING FIRM:** Follow the right leader! In vs. 18 and 19 Paul speaks of those who are NOT walking with Jesus, but LIVE as enemies of the cross! It is one thing to get off-track and realize you need to turn back to walking with Jesus, but it is another thing to LIVE as an enemy of the cross.

- Put into your own words how Paul describes those living as enemies of the cross of Christ in vs, 19 – how would you recognize them in the world around you?
- Step back and look closely at the people or things you are pursuing in your own life; where are they leading you?
- Who or what are they leading you toward?
- By the same token, carefully consider your own life and the people you may be influencing – where are you leading them? Are you leading them to Jesus? If they imitate you, will you mirror back Jesus to them?

**STANDING FIRM:** Identification – What defines your life? Paul makes it clear that our citizenship is in heaven! He also speaks of the eagerness with which we anticipate the transformation only Jesus can bring to our lives, now and for eternity!

- Why would this have been such a dramatic concept to the three primary groups in the Philippian congregation Paul was addressing?
- How well does the way you are living your life show where you consider your citizenship to be? What is your identity really 'wrapped up in'?
- How would you describe to an unbeliever how your identity is secure in Jesus – how you can STAND FIRM?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.