

Steadily, Eagerly, Walking toward Glory

Philippians 3:15-4:1

Let those of us who are mature think this way.

Think what way?

I am not perfect, but I press on, in faith, because Jesus has made me his own.
Perfection -> to be with and like Christ forever.

Having the same mindset

Walking together (join one another).

- Correct thinking must lead to right living.

vs. 17, join in imitating me

Keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Walk according to the example you have in us

Walking - a pattern of conduct displayed (long obedience in the same direction)

The habits of one's heart, one's core commitments, and deep desires.

Deuteronomy 8:6 So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

Colossians 2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

Contrast: Many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Cross	Enemies
Heavenly	Earthly
Awaiting a Savior	Headed toward destruction

Cross -> the ultimate contradiction to human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

- Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing.
- Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- It pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.
- Christ crucified, a stumbling block

vs. 18, What is Paul's attitude toward these individuals?

Compassion! I have told you with tears.

vs. 19, How are they enemies of the cross?

Their minds are set on earthly things.

The distraction is all consuming.

Personal satisfaction (over indulgence in food as well as a warped sexual appetite) is their god (idol).

They are so consumed they boast in their shame.

This is an existence that only leads to death (destruction).

The distractions can come through license and through piety.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **2** through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, **3** who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

But, those on the narrow path, our citizenship is in heaven.

And we are waiting!

No one likes to wait.

Is this not true of our phones? They feed on human happiness?

Impatience is a deep spiritual problem.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance (patience) the race that is set before us,

Time

Time & Space

Time, space, & stillness - these are the tools God uses to build a patient endurance with us.

Psalms 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalms 40:1-2 I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. **2** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

vs. 20, Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior (eagerly).

Citizen -> Savior and Lord / Not Rome, but heaven

In waiting we can develop the parts of our character that take the longest to grow and mature.

These character qualities are essential for a follower of Jesus - humility, patience, submission, persistence, and joyful endurance.

Basic word search in the ESV -> wait for the Lord, 33X

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

Resurrection -> the rescue of His body from death.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

As a follower of Jesus we do not give in or settle for the enemy of death.

We speak and live life (already / not yet).

Earthly things -> one big, giant distraction!

With knowledge and all discernment,

Philippians 1:10-11 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Heavenly things -> We will see His face!

Revelation 22:3-4 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

vs. 21, The waiting is not meaningless.

Jesus will complete the transformation.

We will be like his glorious body (perfection).

Jesus has the authority, power, and desire to fulfill God's promises.

Notice all of the communal language

vs. 17, brothers and sisters join in imitating me

vs. 20, our citizenship, we await a Savior

vs. 21, transform our lowly bodies

4:1, brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, stand firm (together)

Endurance / Patience / Waiting is a team endeavor!

Our culture has taught us to ignore the team and only pay attention to self! (Earthly things)

Communal

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The prize -> seeing Jesus clearly and being changed by that sight.

Discernment / Courage

Direction / Who or What is our guide?

Titus 2:2-3 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

1:27, Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

Questions:

Brothers and Sisters (Is your church family?)

Who are we imitating?

How is our walk in the waiting?

What needs attention in order to improve your endurance?

Are you part of the team (all in)?

Is your understanding of heaven motivating? If not, you don't understand heaven. What needs to change to gain a Jesus centered perspective concerning heaven?

Who are you asking to imitate you?