

Philippians 3:17-21
Follow Me as I Follow Him
Rootwork

1. **(Everyday)** Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!

2. **(Everyday)** Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so submit to God, resist him and he will flee!!

3. If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Philippians 3 into a word/pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received!(if you have not done so already) If you were not there and want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. **(Everyday)** After you finish your Rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout. Read **Philippians 3:1-21**, all in context. Record what has stuck out to you the most. What has challenged you the most through this chapter? How has this sanctified your walk personally?
5. Read verses 17-21 of Philippians chapter 3 and see if you can come up with a different section theme!
6. Read it again and mark or highlight any repeated words or any words you want more insight on. Now look up those words in your Blue Letter Bible app and record their meanings. What further insight do you see by looking deeper into these words? (If you need help with this, please let me know!)
7. As we discussed in Bible study, Paul consistently goes from exhortation to admonishment in his letters. Why do you think that is? What does it produce in you personally?
8. Read verse 17 again. What does Paul say here? Revisit the meaning of these words. What kind of pattern is Paul exhorting the church of Philippi (and us) to imitate?
9. Take a minute and write out who might be watching you, considering you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

10. Read the following verses and record what is being said in each.
Look them up in context and really write out what is being said.

- Mark 9:35
- Philippians 4:9
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5–7
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 2 Timothy 2:1–3

11. Look at verse 17 again. Is Paul saying he is perfect and that we should look to him instead of Christ? What is he saying here?

12. What does this look like practically? God has set up order and established leadership, mentorship, and family within the church. It is a gift when done right! Look up the following verses and then record God's plan for each.

- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 1:5
- Titus 2:3–5
- Hebrews 13:17

13. What patterns do we look for when following leaders, mentors, and others in authority in our lives? Give examples.
14. In Bible study, we talked about six specific traits that we need to look for when following leaders, mentors, or others running this race. What were they? Then explain each one.
15. Now go back through this list. Do you see these character traits in yourself? Are you able to say, “Follow me as I follow Christ”? I know this is challenging, but I think it is so important that we realize we have so many people watching our lives. The moment we say we are Christ followers, people want to know if it is real. Are you truly following Christ? If so, you can confidently say, “Follow me as I follow Him,” knowing that whether in mistakes and trials or in success and blessing, you can point others to Him! Write your personal thoughts on this.
16. Read verse 18. What is Paul’s warning here? How did this affect Paul? Why?
17. Read Matthew 7:13–28 carefully. Spend time and write out your thoughts and questions on these verses! They are powerful and challenging! What does Jesus say here?
18. Read 1 John 4:6. What does it tell us we should have, and what do true believers do?
19. Read this quote from Spurgeon. Where is Paul’s focus and heart? Does this challenge you? If so, how?

- “I never read that the apostle wept when he was persecuted. Though they ploughed his back with furrows, I do believe that never a tear was seen to gush from his eye while the soldiers scourged him. Though he was cast into prison, we read of his singing, never of his groaning. I do not believe he ever wept on account of any sufferings or dangers to which he himself was exposed for Christ’s sake. I call this an extraordinary sorrow, because the man who wept was no soft piece of sentiment, and seldom shed a tear even under grievous trials.” (Spurgeon)

20. Who is Paul speaking about here when he warns the church of Philippi?
21. Look up Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 and write out what you learn from the parable Jesus gives here. How does this compare to what Paul is talking about in Philippians 3? We are all called to beware and have discernment about whom we follow. Who will, at the end of the day, make all things right?
22. Read verse 19 of chapter 3. What characteristics do we see of those who are enemies of the cross? Write them all out.
23. This is the description of their fruit! These are not sugarcoated or general. These are specific and intense! Look up the word destruction in the first character trait, and see in John 17:11–12 whom this compares to. Write your thoughts on this!
24. What does it mean that “their god is their appetite”? How do you see this in the church (as a whole) today? How can you keep your own heart from going down this path?

25. Read 2 Timothy 4:1–5 and make a list of everything Paul is warning Timothy about. How do you see these things operating in the church (as a whole) today?
26. What does it mean that “their glory is their shame”? Then read Romans 6:20–23 and Romans 16:17–20 and record what these verses have to say about this. How can you keep your own heart from going down this path?
27. Where are their minds set? What is their focus? Read Romans 8:5–6 and Colossians 3:1–4 and record these massive truths! Why is this so vital?
28. How much of what you consider important does God consider valuable in terms of eternity?
29. Take a minute, just between you and the Lord, and write out the areas where you struggle personally with these things. Confess them before the Lord and clean that vessel out of temporal focus! There is a choice before all of us daily between temporary pleasures and eternal joy, earthly pursuits and the heavenly prize, fleshly gain and eternal rewards! It is something we have to look at so that we do not let our flesh get caught up in things that do not matter—things that please self and not the Lord. Ask God to reveal anything that needs to be revealed and lay it down before Him. Then lift your eyes up, knowing you are forgiven and set free from the bondage of self and fleshly pursuits! Rejoice in that and praise Him for His grace and mercy!

30. This quote from Spurgeon about the cross of Christ is both powerful and true. Read it and record your thoughts on it!
- “The cross of Christ is sometimes put in Scripture for the life which is the result of faith in Christ. What kind of life should that be? Well, first, a life of self-denial. No man who is the friend of the cross of Christ will give license to his passions, or indulgence to his appetites. If he does so, he proves that he is the enemy of the cross of Christ. No man will seek honor for himself who has known that Christ has bought him with his blood.” — Spurgeon
31. Read Philippians 3:20 and look up the words citizen and heaven, then record what you find. What does this bring to mind? Does the definition of heaven fully encapsulate what you think heaven will be like? Look up as many verses on heaven as you can find, and based on those verses, write a definition of heaven. What will it be like? What does it mean that you are a citizen of heaven?
32. For whom do we eagerly wait? Read 2 Timothy 4:8. What does it say?
33. Look up the following verses and record your thoughts on each. What encouragement and hope we have in Christ!
- John 14:1–3
 - Matthew 6:19–21

- 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

34. Read verse 21 of Philippians 3, and then read 2 Corinthians 5:1–2, 1 Corinthians 2:9, and 1 John 3:2. What do we have to look forward to? YES AND AMEN! We will no longer have to think about nor deal with these earthly tents, and we will be set free from the curse of sin for good! Hallelujah—I can hardly wait!
35. How do these verses help you live out Philippians 3:14?
36. Finish your Rootwork for this session by going through 1 Corinthians 15:42–58 word by word and verse by verse. What is it saying? What hope do you and I have? Where should our focus be? Where should our eyes be? Where should our joy be found?
37. Do not lose heart. Although the outer man is decaying, the inward man is being renewed day by day as we set out with purpose and vision to fix our eyes on eternity and our hope on our Savior! We will soon be with Him—no more pain, no more sorrow, no more sin! Just the glorious joy of knowing Him and seeing Him as He truly is! Oh, what a promise we have, ladies! Keep your eyes up—we will be home soon! Maranatha!