

Begin with the

End in mind



Philippians 3:17 -4:1

Begin with the end in mind

Introduction - Phil 3:17-4:1

- 1. What** is the challenge?
- 2. Why** are we being challenged?
- 3. How** do we accomplish the challenge?

There will be an opportunity to respond at the end.

7 Habits of Highly Effective People



To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you're going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.

— Stephen Covey —

What is the Challenge

1. Phil 3: 4-6 Old Paul; confidence in flesh
2. Phil 3:7-8, 10 New Paul with a profound revelation.
3. Phil 3:17 Join in imitating me
4. Paul the persecutor vs Paul the intimate friend of Jesus.

What is the Challenge

5. John 17:3 This is eternal life....

6. Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me.....

7. Paul and others who's walk (life) mirrors his.

“Why” are we being challenged?

1. Many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.... with minds set on earthly things. (Phil 3:18-19)
2. Enemy of the cross is anything that turns believer's attention to earthly things.
3. Destruction is not extinction or annihilation. Ruin, complete loss and eternal separation.

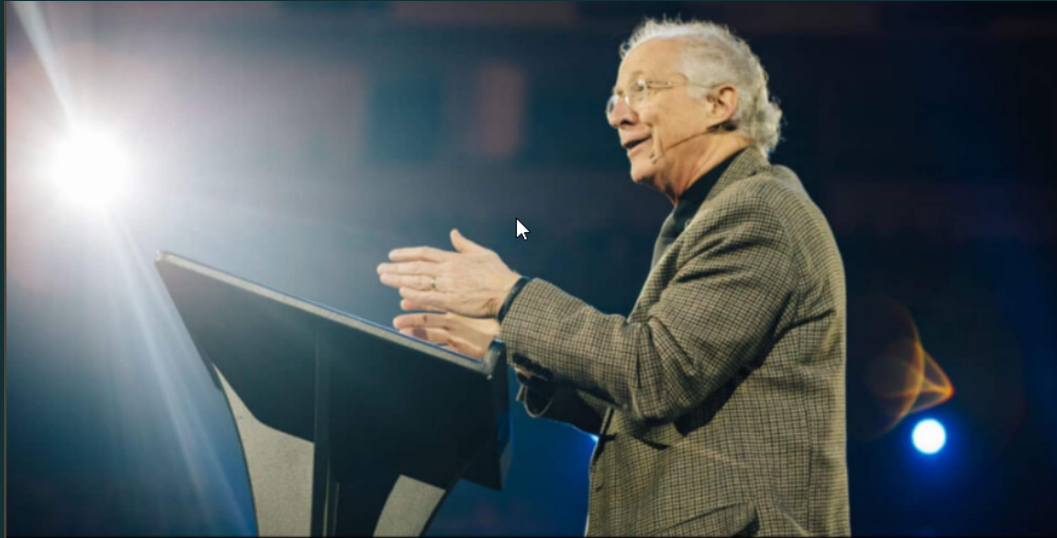
“Why” are we being challenged?

- 4. Belly = Appetite or sensual pleasures
- 5. Take pride in sin
- 6. Paul's concern? False teaching entering the church

Concern with false teaching?

- Prosperity gospel? Using God to get the world? Who is prospering?
- Distorted grace. Unconditional love is not acceptance of any lifestyle or sin.
- Seeker sensitive. Appeal is God's purpose is to make your life better.
- Evangelism is forbidden. Churches are now prisons.

John Piper's conclusion ...



**“If God’s Love for His children
is to be measured by our
health, wealth and comfort
in this life, then God hated
the Apostle Paul.”**

-John Piper

How do we accomplish this?

1. Citizenship in Heaven.... Stand firm.
(Phil 3:20- 4:1)
2. This world should be foreign!
3. Eternity not a question of if but where!
4. Life on this earth is a blink of an eye
5. “Begin with the end in mind”! Does
this help me **know Him?**

Summary

- 1. What** is God challenging us to do?
 - KNOW HIM!
- 2. Why** is God challenging us to do this?
 - False teaching focus earthly as opposed to eternal things!
- 3. How** do we address this?
 - Have an external perspective. This is not our home!

Call to action!

- Do you know **of** Jesus or know Jesus?
- Has your focus been on earthly things?
- Do you want to be used by God to make the difference between heaven or hell in the lives of others?