



Philippians Follow or Folly

Pastor Jon Velasquez
September 17, 2023

Philippians 3:12-14

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, (Faith, know Christ, Power of Resurrection, become like him) or have already arrived at my goal, **but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 3:15-16

*“**All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.** And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.”*

Philippians 3:17-18

*“**Join together in following my example,** brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, **keep your eyes on those who live as we do.** For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 4:16

“Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 3:7 & 9

“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.”

Mark 8:34

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.””

Matthew 10:38

“Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

John 8:12

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Do you think it is important to follow Jesus?

What kind of things will help us to be good leaders, according to Paul?

Philippians 4:4-9

*“**Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice!** Let your **gentleness be evident** to all. **The Lord is near. Do not be anxious** about anything, but in every situation, by **prayer** and petition, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice.** And the God of peace will be with you.”*

How to Follow Paul’s Example & Lead People to Christ.

- 1. Rejoice in the Lord**
- 2. Be Gentle to Everyone, Always**
- 3. Do not be Anxious**
- 4. Always be in Prayer**
- 5. Always be Thankful**
- 6. Practice Paul’s & Christ’s Example**
- 7. Remain & be Mindful of Christ Always / Think about Jesus**

If you do these things...

The peace of God will guard your hearts and minds.

Isaiah 25:9

*“In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and **he saved us.** This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and **be glad in his salvation.**”*

Isaiah 61:10

*“I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. **For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,** as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”*

Habakkuk 3:18

*“...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful **in God my Savior.**”*

Psalm 20:5

*“We will rejoice in **thy salvation**, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfill all thy petitions.”*

Who are you following today? Because others are following you! Where do you want to lead them?