

Philippians 3:20-21
“Heaven is coming”

Introduction

Paul started this church of Philippi on his 2nd missionary journey.

2 fold reason Paul wrote this letter:

1. Thanking them for the gift that they sent to Paul while in Prison in Rome.
2. To exhort them in their Christian walk.

Today we are going to learn:

1. Who are the Enemies of the Cross
2. For us to understand that our citizenship is in Heaven

Paul made it clear that mature believers have this same mind of thinking:

Phil 3:14-16

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.**

Last time we were together we ended with:

Phil 3:17-19

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and **note those who so walk**, as **you have us for a pattern.**

18 **For many walk**, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that **they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:**

19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.

In short, Who are the enemies of the Cross?

1. **Those who minimize Christ!**
2. **Those who minimize the Cross!!**

Last time we looked at the book of Hebrews and Galatians to see the same issue that the church of Philippi is having and really all the churches even up to today.

In short the focus leaves Christ and Him crucified. And then places the focus on ourselves and if our works are good enough to prove our salvation.

Looking once again at the passages in Galatians:

Gal 1:6-9

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him **who called you in the grace of Christ**, to **a different gospel**,

7 **which is not another**; but there are some who trouble you and **want to pervert the gospel of Christ**.

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, **if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed**.

Gal 5:11

11 And I, brethren, **if I still preach circumcision**, why do I still suffer persecution? **Then the offense of the cross has ceased**.

They were evidently saying that Paul also taught circumcision!

Gal 6:12

12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, **these would compel you to be circumcised**, only **that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ**.

Gal 6:14

14 But **God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Looking once again at the passages in Corinthians:**1 Cor 15:3-4**

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried,

and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Cor 1:18

18 For **the message of the cross is foolishness** to those who are perishing, but **to us who are being saved it is the power of God**.

1 Cor 1:21-25

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it **pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe**.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 **but we preach Christ crucified**, to the **Jews a stumbling block** and **to the Greeks foolishness**,

24 **but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Cor 2:1-5

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 **that your faith should not be** in the wisdom of men **but in the power of God.**

We are not saved by our Power, but God's.

- It is Jesus righteous and not ours
- It is on Jesus' works and not ours.
- It is on Jesus faithfulness and not ours.
- It is on Jesus power to keep us and not on our power to keep us.

Now today, we look at those who have stopped "walking" in Christ.

Phil 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven

Phil 3:20

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A. For our citizenship is in heaven:

One paraphrase of **citizenship is in heaven** reads like this:

Quote: (Barclay)

"We have our home in heaven, and here on earth we are a colony of heaven's citizens." Paul is saying: "Just as the Roman colonists never forgot that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; and your conduct must match your citizenship."

Let us represent your country well.

- We are no longer "earthly" people. We now have a new nature that comes from heaven itself.
- We are strangers in this world.

Heb 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them **and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

14 **For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.**

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

Psalms 84:5

5 **Blessed is the man** whose strength is in You,
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.

- But a passport from Heaven.
- We need to represent our true country now:

2 Cor 5:20

20 Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ,** as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

B. We do not put our minds earthly things, but on the heavenlies:

We endure this wicked and sinful age, but putting our eyes and also our thoughts are on heaven and the things to come for us in heaven.

This is in contrast to the verse we just read:

Phil 3:18-19

18 **For many walk,** that **they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:**

(1) whose end is destruction, ... **But our end is eternal life is in heaven with Jesus**

(2) whose god is their belly, **our focus is the bread of Life, "Jesus" and not a kosher diet.**

(3) whose glory is in their shame—.... **our glory is the daily attempt to life Holy and pure, following Jesus example.**

(4) who set their mind on earthly things... **Our mind is set not earth but on Heaven to come.**

Col 3:1-4

1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.**

2 **Set your mind on things above,** not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

4 **When Christ who is our life appears,** then **you also will appear with Him in glory.**

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, **now we are children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And **everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

C. From which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ:

As should Christians eagerly await the coming of their King – Jesus Christ.

1 Thes 5:9-11

9 **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 **Therefore comfort each other** and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

2 Tim 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 **Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, **and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Titus 2:13

13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

2 Cor 5:7-8

7 For **we walk by faith, not by sight.**

8 **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

3:21 transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body

Phil 3:21

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

(KJV)

21 Who shall change **our vile body**, that it may **be fashioned like** unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

A. Who will transform our lowly (KJV – Vile) body that it may be conformed to His glorious body

Lowly; vile

The Greek word (tapeinosis) – vile; lowness, low estate; humiliation, depression

- Jesus was not merely resuscitated from the dead in the same body.
- When we are resurrected, we will have the same type of body that Jesus Himself had when He was resurrected.
- He was resurrected in a new body, patterned after the old yet equipped and fitted for heaven. (Guzik)

Transform (KJV- may be fashioned)

The Greek word (*summorphos*) – **Jointly formed**; having **the same form as another**, similar, conformed to...the same as another...

Only one other place in the New Testament this word is used:

Rom 8:29

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Not only Spiritually will we be like Christ, but also in our New Bodies!!!!

B. Paul talks about this process of our “New Body” in detail in 1 Cor 15:

This entire chapter is so great, but time permits us to look at it all, but let's still look at a pretty good chunk of it.

1 Cor 15:42-49

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

1 Cor 15:50-54

50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

C. According to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself:

It is not whether God has the Power to stop all evil and put an end to "Death", it is a matter of God's perfect timing!!!!

The time is now coming soon.

In 2 ways:

1. In the rapture of the church.
2. Is in the 2nd coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation and at that time we come with Him!!!

David speaking prophetically about the Messiah, who would be from his lineage:

Psalms 110:1

1 A Psalm of David.

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Jesus speaking to the unbelieving Pharisees:

Matt 22:44

44 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" ' ?

Paul explaining:

Heb 10:12-13

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 **from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**

Heb 2:8

8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him.

But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

Paul explaining's the final thing under Jesus feet is "Death":

1 Cor 15:25-28

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

27 For "He has put all things under His feet."

But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Conclusion

1. Let us be imitators of Christ.

How?

- By following Paul's example and others that a trying to walk like Christ.

2. Be aware of the "enemies of Christ".

Who are they?

- The stress "works" and minimize the "Cross".
- Don't have the simple gospel message of the "Salvation by Grace"

3. Let's look for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

How?

By living as Pilgrims and Strangers here and have our hope set on heaven and not of this earth.

John 14:1-4

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 "And if **I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

John 17:24

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me **may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me;** for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.