

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Living As Citizens of Heaven”

Philippians 3:15-21

Intro: **Paul exhorts believers:** (1) *to live mature Christian lives* by following the example and pattern set by him and others (vv. 15-17); (2) *to avoid the enemies of the cross of Christ*, those who “set their minds on earthly things” and pursue a sensual lifestyle (vv. 18-19); and (3) *to live as citizens of heaven, eagerly awaiting our Savior “who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory”* (vv. 20-21).

I. Live As Mature Christians 3:15-17

- A. Live as mature Christ-centered believers (v. 15)
- B. Live according to the standard of Christ (v. 16)
- C. Live according to the example of Paul and others (v. 17)



II. Do Not Live As the Enemies of the Cross of Christ 3:18-19

- A. Their determined course: *they walk as enemies of Christ* (v. 18)
- B. Their description: *three identifying characteristics* (v. 19)
 - 1. *Their god is their belly—sensual and hedonistic in their pursuits and practices*
 - 2. *Their glory is in their shame—they were prideful and shameless*
 - 3. *Their minds are set on earthly things—they love the world and the things of the world (Col 2:2, 5, 8; 1 John 2:15-17)*
- C. Their destruction (19a; cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15)

III. Live As Citizens of Heaven, Eagerly Awaiting Our Savior’s Return 3:20-21

- A. Live as citizens of heaven (v. 20; 2 Cor. 5:14-21—*We are Ambassadors of Christ*)
- B. Live in expectation of Christ’s return (v. 21; cf. 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Applications:

1. Believers are exhorted to live a *maturing* (growing/developing) *Christ-centered life*.
2. Believers are exhorted to **NOT** live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
3. Believers are exhorted to *live as citizens of heaven, eagerly awaiting our Savior “who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory!”*

Memory verse: “For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” *Philippians 1:21*