

LIVING OUR LIVES IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

An Exposition of Philippians 3:17-21
By Pastor Brent Tremblay, posted Sunday, May 3, 2020

Sermon Outline

Theme: living as examples in anticipation of eternity.

1. Good Examples (v 17)

Every one of us is called to live our lives as examples of what it means to be a follower of Christ. (e.g., the apostle Paul v 17a “watch me”)

Jesus Himself came as a MAN in order to display God’s attributes, character and truth. (John 14:9)

God’s method of reaching the world is still MEN. (1 Cor 1:11; Phil 4:9; 1 Cor 4:16-17; Mat 10:25)

We are all examples. (v17b) (1 Tim 4:12b)

2. Bad Examples (v 18-19)

These were people who were undermining the faith of believers. He warned them with “tears”.

- Enemies of the cross (v 18) The cross: “too much” or “not enough”
- Their final destination: hell (v 19a)
- Governed by their own appetites (v 19b)
- Boasted in what they ought to have been ashamed of (v 19c)
- Their hearts and minds were completely earthbound (v 19d)

3. The Believer’s Ultimate Destination: Heaven

Our true citizenship: our obedience is to another Sovereign: Jesus! (v 20a)

Let us “eagerly” wait for the Lord’s return. (v 20b)

Coming Soon: NEW BODIES! (v 31)

Bible Study Questions

- 1. Are you aware that your life is to be a reflection of Christ's life everywhere you go and in all that you do? (v 17) (Mat 5:14-16) Discuss.**

- 2. What is God's primary method of reaching the lost, and equipping the church? (Eph 4:11) Did Paul have any qualms about putting himself forward as an example for other people to follow? (1 Cor 11:1; 1 Tim 1:16; 1 Cor 4:16-17) And how do you feel about doing the same? In what ways can we as individuals show ourselves to be examples to others? (1 Tim 4:12b)**

- 3. List two reasons why some people, "many" would be hostile to the preaching of the CROSS? (v 18) (Important!)**

- 4. List and discuss the FOUR descriptions Paul used to define their motives and the consequences of their behaviour. (v 19)**

- 5. In light of the believer's final destination, HEAVEN, how then should we live here on earth? (v 20a)**

- 6. What should the believer's disposition be while we wait for Christ's return? (v 20b) (Gal 5:5; Heb 9:28)**

- 7. What else can we look forward to? (v 21) (Rom 8:23) (1 Cor 15:42-44)**