

Week 5

Philippians 3:15-21

Intro

First off. What is the one thing you are going to take away from today.

Who do you model your life after? When you think about who you would want to be, and you pick somebody. Who is it that you want to be like?

There are tons of great people to look at their life and think man that's what I want. I want to have the influence that they have. I want to have the power that they have. I want to have the money they have. I want my life, to look like that person's.

You see often I think we follow the wrong people and even people that may appear to be doing good and doing good things, but the why of why they are doing it is off base. I listened to a podcast the other day, and on it was one of my favorite celebrities as a guest star. And this person went on to say that they were not a "religious person" they were a humanist. And the host said, "that's crazy because you are so generous, and kind do you think your behavior has any root in your religious upbringing". And the celebrity said, "no". They went on to describe that basically, they realized that they didn't get happiness with money and found that they got joy giving it away.

My conclusion is a strange one. I think that people, like this celebrity, find joy in doing things, like being generous or being nice to people, and they end up doing it for their own selfish reasons. Because they aren't doing it because it is right...they are doing it because it feels good.

The heart issue is all wrong.

Read Philippians 3:17

- Why would Paul say this? Couldn't he have said, "just follow any religious leader"? Couldn't he have said, just do as the good and moral people do? Why did he say, "keep your eyes on those who live as we do"?
- **Why couldn't he clarify?**
- Because there are lots of people that might claim to be Christians, they might act kind, they might do good things, but they are being driven by the wrong thing. Even Religious people! And Paul, who loves this church. He's in chains and he's writing to this church and it's the end of the letter and he's worried and he's kind

of writing the last thoughts and he says, "HEY DON'T LIVE LIKE THAT OVER THERE. LIVE LIKE I DO AND THOSE THAT DO LIKE US". Why? Look next.

Read Philippians 3:18

- Many live as an enemy to the cross. Many. Did Paul know people that lived like that? Probably because he says, "In tears!!!" He said I've told you before, I'll tell you again. Is it possible that Paul knew people that now lived as enemies of the cross? YES. Definitely. And it **TORE. HIM. UP.**
- **These people probably did Good. Looked Good. But never made it their own.**
- Sunday night I was in Warsaw at my in-laws. We were there watching football and I had a hankering for my favorite drink. Grape Soda. Now I've really trimmed down my pop intake because frankly I was addicted to pop and had a serious problem. But I hadn't drank any pop for 2 weeks and I thought, I'm gonna go get some grape soda. So, I went to the grocery store and while I was there, I saw 2 people that I knew. 1 had been a student in the youth ministry I spent 8 years volunteering at. And from what I have heard they have walked away from the Lord. And they avoided eye contact with me, and it was awkward, and afterward I was so sad, because for whatever reason they have decided to not follow Jesus anymore. I have friends that I have talked to extensively and they explain what they believe, and I explain what I believe, and at the end I say, "look man, I don't like it, I wish I didn't find this to be true, but I do and I believe that if you die and aren't a follower of Jesus you are going to go to hell, and I don't want that for you". And they choose not to follow God.
- This sounds extreme but the people that are not following God, they are living as enemies of the cross. And I hate that.
- And Paul saw people doing this incorrectly all the time. They were called Judaizers and he's probably referring to them most of the time in this passage. And what they taught was that Grace wasn't enough, but you still had to follow all the rules in the Old Testament. Which honestly has some kind of "I like that" feeling when you think about it. Because it's this attainable goal. But we get to live in the age of Grace.

Read Philippians 3:19

- And Paul when specifically addressing these Judaizers and the enemy of the cross says, "their destiny is destruction". They think they are living. They think they are having a good life. They think that they are doing the right thing. But they are wrong.
- So, when you think about your destiny, what is it? Is it living a full life or is it destruction?

- **Their glory is their shame.**

Read Philippians 3:20-21

- **Our citizenship is in heaven.**
- This part goes specifically to those of you that are followers of Jesus. The reality is that most of the time I live like this life is all there is. I live like this is the best it is. I live like I should live it up. I live like this moment it's okay to be selfish because I need to make sure that I take care of myself. That I look out for number one because I need to live it up. YOLO. And I kind of joke about that but honestly that's my internal struggle often.
- But what I need to grasp is, that like the church in Philippi, and like every other Christian. I need to grasp the reality, that my citizenship is in Heaven. Don't get me wrong, I'm patriotic I love living here, but this is not the end. I don't just die and stay dead, there is too much at stake for me to live selfishly.

Conclusion

- **My biggest fear** is seeing you guys walk away from your faith. And I don't exactly think it will happen intentionally, but I worry that you come here, you come on Sunday, (and I'm so glad you do), but that you leave here, you get a job, you go to school, and you end up just distant from God. I worry that you haven't made your faith your own. I worry for those of you that haven't decided to follow Jesus, and maybe you are waiting, and you are just checking it out, but there's too big of a cost.
- So, what can we take away from this passage?
- **1. If you are a Christian, you are a citizen of heaven. You will have a new body. You do not live for the right now, but for the future.**
- **2. If you are not a Christian. You are currently, an enemy of God. That is a dangerous place to be. But God wants you on his team.**