

Sunday, May 29, 2022

## Step as Citizens

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Philippians 3:17-4:3

### JOY in Context

On Tuesday in Uvalde Texas, 19 children and 2 teachers were shot dead.

On Friday I was shown a list the SBA released the day before that's 200 pages long of hundreds of accounts of Baptist ministers accused of sex abuse dating back to the 70's to this year. It broke my heart. **PRAY.**

But Thursday I was emailed by Kayla, who recently started attending our church. I would like to introduce to you, **Lincoln Alan**, arrived earth side on May 18 at 10:32 pm after 40 hours of labor! Congratulations Kayla and family!

### MAIN POINT-Step as Citizens of Heaven

#1.Strive

#2.Imitate

#3.Watch out

#4.Who & Whose

#5.Stand

#### #1. Strive

1. Context (3:12-16) **Strive #1. You're not there yet**

A. Paul continues these point he adds the direction of our striving-Heavenward

B. **Hold true to what you have attained (Vs. 16)**

1. Don't freak out. Live what you know! Not sure how?

#### #2. imitate, read vs. 17

**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**

A. Walk has its root word in the idea of treading. Think treading grapes.

1. But it's all of us together, walking with intention, more like a march.

2. *Have everyone stand and march in place. Might be tough since our clapping is not stellar! Bring up a few volunteers and march in line. Have one follow the next. Have the person following March less intentional and the wrong direction.*

**A. Implied application-Be an example!** Be someone who others can follow!

1. This means you are available so people can see your life!

## B. "keep your eyes"

***"to consider something critically and then to hold something before one as a model on the basis of the inspection,"<sup>1</sup>***

1. This means don't follow just anyone. (Marching example) There is a personal responsibility to your faith. You are responsible for who you follow BUT (refer to vs. 16) God's got you, so get it! Be wise! WHY?

2. Don't follow too quickly, because there's people out there going the wrong direction.

### **#3. WHAT OUT!**

A. Who are these "enemies"?

1. "knife happy circumcisers" from vs. 3:2

a. Dogs, evildoers, mutilators

2. Enemies of the cross (explain → not sufficient)

a. Cross + something = Nothing vs. Cross + nothing = Everything

3. End is destruction

[13] For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. [14] And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. [15] So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

[1] But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. [2] And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. [3] And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (ESV) No shortness of harsh words for these peeps! I wonder how many "Christians" will fall under this category. If they are Jewish Christians who are applying the law to those who were set free from it, then how guilty is the current church in doing the same? 2 Peter 2:1-3

**I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!**

**For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:12-13**

4. their god is their belly

a. Romans 16:17-18

5. and they glory in their shame

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<sup>1</sup> G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich, Theological dictionary of the New Testament

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. Jude 12-13

No shortness of harsh words for these peeps! I wonder how many "Christians" will fall under this category. If they are Jewish Christians who are applying the law to those who were set free from it, **then how guilty is the current church in doing the same?**

The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame. Hosea 4:7

The reference to Hosea along with the these NT references should put the fear of God in us to **MAKE SURE we are NOT doing the same**

6. with minds set on earthly things.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

#### **#4. Who & Whose VS. 20**

BUT- I like Big buts in scripture→ This isn't good... BUT GOD!

A. REMEMBER Who and whose we are!

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, Ephesians 2:19

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

B. Hope of Heaven along with NEW BODIES!

C. GOSPEL → Names in the Book of Life!

#### **#5. THEREFORE, STAND FIRM IN THE LORD**

A. This means LOVE THE CHURCH

1&2. Brothers & Sisters x2,

3. I love and

4. long for,

- 5.my joy and
- 6.crown,
- 7.my beloved,
- 8.true companion,
- 9.side by side,
- 10.fellow workers

B. This means we WORK IT OUT

Who do you need to "work it out" with?

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

-RELATIONSHIPS ARE A PRIORITY FOR CITIZENS OF HEAVEN!

Citizens of Heaven

- Know who and who's they are
- Imitate others who imitate Christ
- Example to others
- Cross+nothing=Everything
- Have Hope

Citizens of the world

- Don't know who they are
- Cross+something=Nothing
- Does NOT end well

\*STUDY NOTES BELOW

## Philippians 3:17-4:3

### BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Main Point-Walk as citizens of heaven! But watch out, many are not walking the same direction.

Key words- Below in Pink

Key verse-Vs. 20

FCF; "Walk" as enemies of Christ, end is destruction, their God is their belly, glory in shame, & Earthly mindset

 GENERAL  GOD  KEY WORDS  COMMAND  TRUTH  SIN

[17] Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. [18] For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. [20] But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (ESV)

[1] Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

[2] I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. [3] Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

## #1. Initial Observations/Questions

### Imperatives

Imitate me [Paul]

Keep your eyes for those who walk according to the example

Stand firm

Agree in the Lord

Help these women [Euodia & Syntyche]

### Indicatives

our citizenship is in heaven

who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body by the power

that enables him even to subject all things to himself

whose names are in the book of life

## KEY WORDS

### Paul's statements of endearment

1&2. Brothers & Sisters x2,

3. I love and

4. long for,

5. my joy and

6. crown,

7. my beloved,

8. true companion,

9. side by side,

10. fellow workers

\*Also note his emotion towards the "enemies", "even with tears"

The theme of "walk" is used for Christians (vs. 17) and enemies (vs. 18) ending with an imperative for Christians to STAND FIRM.

\*Look up "walk" in greek

Eschatology is also heavily picked up. Citizens of Heaven (vs. 20), glorious bodies (vs. 21), & book of life (vs. 4:3)

## FCF- Fallen Condition Focus

\*Who are the "enemies of Christ"? Same guys from 3:2, the "knife happy circumcisers"?

4 fold description to walk as an enemy of Christ.

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their good is their belly
3. They glory in their shame
4. Minds set on earthly things

Could this be applied to anyone who is "earthly minded"?

*You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4*

Another FCF is; keeping your eyes off the prize and living a worldly life. \*Note the contrast between vs. 17 & 18

What Can be learned about God?

- a. He can be an enemy. (Vs. 18)
- b. He's coming back [await] (vs. 20)
- c. Has a glorious body, power, and all things are/will be subject to him (vs. 21)

## #2. Translation Variations

### **VS. 17**

ESV- Imitating me

Nkjv, NASB, NIV- Follow(ing) my example

ESV, NIV-Keep your eyes on

NKJV- Note those

NASB-Observe those

ESV-Example

NKJV, NASB,- Pattern

NIV-live

### **VS. 19**

ESV, NKJV, NASB- End is...

NIV-destiny is...

### **VS. 20**

ESV- and from it we await a Savior

NKJV, NASB, NIV- [adds] Eagerly (\*look up greek to see original text)

## **VS. 21**

ESV, NKJV-Lowly body

NASB-The body of our humble state

ESV, NIV- Like his glorious body

NKJV-Conformed to...

NASB-into conformity with the body of His glory

ESV-by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself

NKJV-according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

NASB-by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

NIV-by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control (NIV reverses the order of this vs, stating power then transformation)

## **4:1**

ESV, NASB, NIV- Stand firm

NKJV- Stand fast

## **4:2**

ESV, NKJV-Implore

NASB-Urge

NIV-Plead

ESV-Agree in the Lord

NKJV, NIV-same mind...

NASB- Live in harmony...

"My true companion"

All translations use this EXCEPT the Message, which uses the name, Syzygus, which means true companion.

ESV, NKJV- Who have labored side by side (with me) in the Gospel

NASB-who have shared my struggle in the cause of the Gospel

NIV- Contended at my side in the cause...

## **\*NOTES**



NIV uses "destiny" rather than "end" in vs. 19. A brief study of the Greek says "a point of time marking the end of a duration"<sup>2</sup>. "End" may be a better word and destiny may be a stretch, but many uses of the word speak to the end times so I do think Paul is speaking to an "end" ending with judgement rather than grace.

vs. 3b NIV used "contended" vs. "labored" which, though they are different words in the Greek, seems to allude to the "straining" Paul speaks to in 3:13b.

**The biggest notable difference in translations is vs. 21b.** Each one offering a slight variation with NKJV leaving out the word "power" and ESV & NIV saying "enables" referring to "work" (NKJV) or "exertion"(NASB). \*Look up Greek  
The Message stands alone in much of the wording.

### The Message

**Stick with me, friends.** Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; **belches are their praise;** all they can think of is their appetites.

20-21 But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. **He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.**

1 4 My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

Pray About Everything

2 I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges.

3 And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you're right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the Book of Life.<sup>3</sup>

## #3. People in the Passage

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<sup>2</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*

<sup>3</sup> Peterson, E. H. (2005). *The Message: the Bible in contemporary language*

**Euodia** [ū ō´dī ə] (Gk. Euodia “prosperous journey”). A woman who belonged to the church at Philippi (Phil. 4:2; KJV “Euodas”). She and Syntyche, who both may have held prominent positions in the congregation and had apparently been close associates of Paul (v. 3; on the role of women at Philippi, cf. Acts 16:13ff.), had become embroiled in a dispute of some sort, sufficient enough to prompt the imprisoned apostle to entreat their reconciliation and to enlist one of their colleagues as mediator (see Yokefellow).<sup>4</sup>

**Syntyche** (Συντύχη, Syntychē). A woman in the church at Philippi whom Paul admonishes to settle a dispute with Euodia (Phil 4:2).

Her name means “fortunate,” or literally, “with fate.” Euodia and Syntyche were among Paul’s first converts in Philippi who “struggled” along with Paul in the gospel (Phil 4:3).<sup>5</sup>

**Yokefellow. (True Companion, ESV)** The literal translation of Gk. σύzygos “comrade” or “companion,” applied to a member (or possibly members) of the church at Philippi charged by Paul to help Euodia and Syntyche resolve their quarrel (Phil. 4:2-3). Scholars have speculated about the identity of this “true yokefellow” and have suggested various persons known from Paul’s ministry, such as Epaphroditus, Silas, Luke, Lydia, Timothy, or Titus. More cautious commentators have proposed several less specific options: a well-known associate of Paul’s, a leader at Philippi whose name is not mentioned; an otherwise unknown church member whose name is not given; an otherwise unknown church member named Syzygus (unlikely because the word is unattested elsewhere as a name); and the whole congregation addressed as one person<sup>6</sup>

## #4. Cross References (ESV)

### Personal Notes Highlighted

**[17] Brothers, \*join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk**

-What you have learned<sup>7</sup> and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

<sup>4</sup> Myers, A. C. (1987). In The Eerdmans Bible dictionary (p. 357).

<sup>5</sup> Syntyche. In The Lexham Bible Dictionary. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>6</sup> Myers, A. C. (1987). In The Eerdmans Bible dictionary (p. 1077).

<sup>7</sup> 4:9 Or \*these things— [9] which things you have also learned\*

Paul's repetition a few verses later give way to a promise- God's peace, which speaks to his motivation for the imperative.

I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 1 Corinthians 4:16

**\*according to the example you have in us.**

not domineering over those in your charge, but **being examples** to the flock. 1 Peter 5:3

This seems to be an implied imperative for the "mature" (3:15) to be an example.  
\*Possible application

**[18] For \*many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you**

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.** Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

**\*even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.**

Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years **I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.** Acts 20:31

Paul's heart for the church! O that we could all have this affection of Christ! (1:8)

**[19] \*Their end is destruction,**

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. **Their end will correspond to their deeds.** 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 2 Thessalonians 1:9

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2:1

And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. 2 Peter 2:3

No shortness of harsh words for these peeps! I wonder how many "Christians" will fall under this category. If they are Jewish Christians who are applying the law to those who were set free from it, **then how guilty is the current church in doing the same?**

**\*their god is their belly, and**

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. Romans 16:17-18

**\*they glory in their shame,**

The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; **I will change their glory into shame.** Hosea 4:7 **\*[quote; look up context->\*See notes below]**

And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of **those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do.** 2 Corinthians 11:12

For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised **that they may boast in your flesh.** Galatians 6:13

wild waves of the sea, casting up the **foam of their own shame;** wandering stars, **for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.** Jude 13

The reference to Hosea along with the these NT references should put the fear of God in us to **MAKE SURE we are NOT doing the same.**

**with \*minds set on earthly things.**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

Romans 8:5 & Col. 3:2 are reminders of where our focus should be!

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4 [added as a reference based on initial observations]

[20] But **\*our citizenship is in heaven,** (A BIG "BUT" in scripture!)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but **you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,** Ephesians 2:19

**and \*from it we**

and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**" Acts 1:11

**\*await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 1:7

[21] **who will transform \*our lowly body**

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. **The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we**

shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:43-53

This reference is a strong theology for the resurrection. It would seem Paul is arguing for a spiritual only (No new bodies) until he says, For this perishable body *must put on* the imperishable, and this mortal body *must put on* immortality.

**\*to be like his glorious body,**

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, Philippians 3:10

When Christ *who is your life* appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:4

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29

**\*by the power that enables him even**

and what is the *immeasurable greatness of his power toward us* who believe, according to the working of his great might Ephesians 1:19

**\*to subject all things to himself.**

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, *that God may be all in all*. 1 Corinthians 15:28

**Philippians 4:1-3** *[As Pauls rounds off this letter, note the references to the beginning]*

**[1] Therefore, my brothers<sup>8</sup>, whom I love and \*long for,**

For God is my witness, *how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus*. Philippians 1:8

**\*my joy and**

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<sup>8</sup> 4:1 Or \*brothers and sisters\*; also verses 8, 21

always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, **Philippians 1:4**

holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **Philippians 2:16**

just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. **2 Corinthians 1:14**

**\*crown,**

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life. Proverbs 16:31

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers. Proverbs 17:6

**\*stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.**

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, **Philippians 1:27**

**[2] I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to \*agree in the Lord.**

complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **Philippians 2:2**

**[3] Yes, I ask you also, true companion<sup>9</sup>, help these women, who have labored<sup>10</sup> side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, \*whose names are in the book of life. **Philippians 3:17-21****

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." **Luke 10:20**

**\*Hosea context from**

Hosea was a prophet to the northern Kingdom. He "depicts Israel's unfaithfulness with a number of images from family and nature. Israel is like: a promiscuous wife, an

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<sup>9</sup> 4:3 Or \*loyal Syzygus\*; Greek \*true yokefellow\*

<sup>10</sup> 4:3 Or \*strived\* (see 1:27)

*indifferent mother, an illegitimate child, an ungrateful son, a stubborn heifer, a silly dove, a luxuriant vine, and grapes in the wilderness. Yet Israel's unfaithfulness and obstinacy are not enough to exhaust God's redeeming love that outstrips the human capacity to comprehend.*"<sup>11</sup>

The context for 4:7 starts with the LORD saying "There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land" (4:1b) and lists the vile deeds of the city. Then it focuses on the Religious leaders who have failed to lead the people.

*"Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, **for with you is my contention, O priest.** You shall stumble by day; **the prophet also shall stumble** with you by night; and I will destroy your mother.*

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; **because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me.** And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."*Hosea 4:4-6

*The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; **I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity. And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.*** Hosea 4:4-9

Therefore, Paul is hyperlinking this thought in his letter to the Philippians. These "knife happy circumcisers" in Paul's day are the same type of leaders that led to the exile of the Northern Kingdom by the Assyrians.

## Greek Studies

### Walk

**General definition;** "to go," "to walk," trans. "to tread", "to tread with the feet," **often in a transf. sense: "to treat disparagingly," even "to maltreat," "to despoil,"**

NT: 1. πατέω occurs only 5 times in the NT. In all instances the use is fixed by the LXX. When the seventy return to Jesus, He says to them in Lk. 10:19

περιπατεῖν, however, **is found especially in Paul, who uses it for the walk of life, more particularly in the moral sense.**<sup>12</sup>

## Summary of Passage

### Summary of Verses

vs. 17- Imitate those who "strain" heavenward (context from vs. 12-16)

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<sup>11</sup> ESV Study Bible

<sup>12</sup> G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*



vs. 18-19- Many don't live this direction and they'll lead you down a hell-bound cul-de-sac.

vs.20-21 BUT you know who AND who's you are. You know he's coming back and one day we'll be like him!

4:1 Therefore, citizen of heaven, my beloved joy and crown, stand firm in him.

4:2 Agree with other citizens and help those who are having issues. Remember, their names are in the book and you'll be with them forever.

### Brief sentence to describe text

Walk as citizens of heaven! But watch out, many are not walking the same direction.

### Main Point-“Step as Citizens”

Jesus says “I have come that you may have life,

### Pre-Outline

Citizens of Heaven...

1. Context; **Striving Heavenward** (3:12-16)
  - A. Hold true to what you have attained (Vs. 16)
    1. Don't freak out. Live what you know!

2. Not sure how? **imitate**

- A. Implied application-Be an example! Be someone who others can follow!
  1. This means you are available so people can see your life!

- B. “keep your eyes”

*“to consider something critically and then to hold something before one as a model on the basis of the inspection,”<sup>13</sup>*

1. This means don't follow just anyone. There is a personal responsibility to your faith. You are responsible for who you follow BUT (refer to vs.16) God's got you, so get it!
2. Don't follow too quickly, because there's people out there going the wrong direction.

3. Worldly citizens

- A. Who are these “enemies”?
  1. “knife happy circumcisers” from vs. 3:2
    - a. Dogs, evildoers, mutilators
  2. Enemies of the cross (explain→ not sufficient)
    - a. Cross+something=Nothing vs. Cross+nothing=Everything
  3. End is destruction

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<sup>13</sup> G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich, Theological dictionary of the New Testament

a.2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 2 Peter 2:1&3,

No shortness of harsh words for these peeps! I wonder how many "Christians" will fall under this category. If they are Jewish Christians who are applying the law to those who were set free from it, then how guilty is the current church in doing the same?

b. Gal. 5:12-13

4. their god is their belly

a. Romans 16:17-18

5. and they glory in their shame

b. Hosea 4:7, 2 Corinthians 11:12, Jude 13

The reference to Hosea along with the these NT references should put the fear of God in us to MAKE SURE we are NOT doing the same

6. with minds set on earthly things.

a. James 4:4

4. BUT- I like Big butts in scripture → This isn't good... BUT GOD!

A. Who's and who we are!

1. Eph. 2:19, 1 Peter 2:9

B. Hope of Heaven along with NEW BODIES!

C. GOSPEL → Names in the Book of Life!

5. THEREFORE, STAND FIRM IN THE LORD

A. This means LOVE THE CHURCH

1&2. Brothers & Sisters x2,

3. I love and

4. long for,

5. my joy and

6. crown,

7. my beloved,

8. true companion,

9. side by side,

10. fellow workers

B. This means we WORK IT OUT

Who do you need to "work it out" with?

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

-RELATIONSHIPS ARE A PRIORITY FOR CITIZENS OF HEAVEN!

## Summery

### Citizens of Heaven

- Know who and who's they are
- Imitate others who imitate Christ
- Example to others
- Cross+nothing=Everything
- Have Hope

### Citizens of the world

- Don't know who they are
- Cross+something=Nothing
- Does NOT end well