

# THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

## PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:17-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“ A UNITED FRONT ” – PART 2**

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living**

**Introduction to the Text;      **Philippians 3:17-21****

“Christ-Like Imitation” and “Persistent Vigilance” is needed  
in these days of deception brought on by false teachers  
and counterfeit doctrines.

### Philippians 3:17-21

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.

**: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.

## A United Front Happens

1.) **When we set Christ as our One Goal** vs. 17

1a.) Because we all have but **One Example** vs. 17a

Brethren, **join** in **following** my **example**,

1b.) Because we all have but **One Lifestyle** vs. 17b

and **note** those who so **walk**, as you have us for a **pattern**.

1c.) Because we all have but **One Family** vs. 17c

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

Why was **Paul** concerned about this ?

Why should **we** be concerned about this ?

( **all for the same reason** )

## A United Front Happens

2.) **When we hold Truth as Preeminent** vs. 18-19

2a.) Because **Truth** is the **One Power** vs. 18a

For many walk, (not a few) **of whom I have told you often**,  
and now tell you even **weeping**,

This is both an **Admonition** and an **Exhortation**.

### Matthew 24:3-4

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" :4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "**Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.**

### 1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

### 2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies,

## These Days That We're In - Are Truly Unique !

1. Don't you **see** that there is a **division** happening now?
2. Can't you **sense** that there is a **separation** taking place now?
3. Aren't you **discerning** in your gut that there's a **preparation** underway?

### 1 Peter 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

### Romans 13:11-14

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

A United Front Happens  
Is When We Hold Truth Preeminent

2b.) Because **Truth** is the **One Judge** vs. 18b

that they are the **enemies** of the Cross of Christ

## The message of the Cross offended them.

Because of **the violence** of the cross / Because of **the centrality** of the cross

Because of **the narrowness** of the cross / Because of **the price** of the cross

### 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-23

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...

...**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.

Their Lifestyle detracts from the **power** of the Cross.

*( there was no real transformation, no change in the things they lived for )*

Their Lifestyle detracts from the **message** of the Cross.

*( what they said and did was different from Jesus' example )*

Their Lifestyle detracts from the **price** of the Cross.

*( they sought to minimize the penalty / judgment of God at the time of the end )*

Their Lifestyle detracts from the **demand** of the Cross.

*( there was always this sense that they were a cut-above everyone else )*

### R. Kent Hughes writes;

These people had faces and names familiar and even beloved to the Philippian believers, nevertheless the great judgment would affect their eternal damnation all because of their cross-denying behavior.

A United Front Happens  
Is When We Hold Truth Preeminent

2c.) Because **Truth** is the **One Divider** vs. 19

whose **end** is **destruction**,

whose **god** is their **belly**, and whose **glory** is in their **shame** - -

*(it' s grim but here' s the reason why they fail to enter heaven)*

who **set** their mind on **earthly** things.

### **Destruction**

ap' o-lei-a, ap-o'-li-a; the physical, spiritual or eternal ruin or loss of ones being – to be damned or damnable. – the result of being condemned - not annihilation but a forever separation.

If something can be beyond serious, it is this  
– the great apostle, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaks / repeats The Great  
Judges' Ruling -

The Scene is a Courtroom, Not just any courtroom,  
But the Courtroom of the Almighty God...  
And His Word **is** the Judge

**John 12:46-48**

I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Listen now - As to The **1<sup>st</sup> Charge** !

**whose god** is their **belly**,

**by reason of having used your God-given life for your own pleasures and that  
at the expense of others, - His Court finds you Guilty**

Listen now - As to The **2<sup>nd</sup> Charge** !

and **whose glory** is in their **shame** - -

**by reason of having used your God-given life to;  
approve, endorse, promote, encourage lawless, lewdness  
and filthy things. - His Court finds you Guilty**

The word here “shame” refers to “unauthorized” or “unsanctioned sexual appetites, pursuits and pleasures - - God is saying there are sexual acts that are to Him – shamefully unauthorized and unsanctioned.

As to The **3<sup>rd</sup> Charge** !

**who set** their **mind** on **earthly** things.

**By reason of having used your God-given life to avoid, reject, and neglect the  
things of heaven – His court finds you guilty.**

**earthly** phro'ne'o, fron-eh'-o; to exercise or to fasten the mind to earthbound things. Earthly affections, entertainments, sentiments – the things that occupy the mind – thoughts, musings, meditations, imaginations,

### **Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** (renovation, remodeling or remaking) of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Listen now the Fall of His Gavel – **The Sentencing !**

**“Whose end is destruction,”**

this end is the perdition that awaits the damned.

The false Christian, believer, minister had come full circle.  
their end is as they had begun

(1) They had begun their “Christian” experience **lost in their sins**, (2) **No real change** had come to them, (3) in time they began to **gravitate toward “loose doctrines”** that promoted the things of the flesh until they (4) had become **defenders of a lifestyle-appetite** that they had had in the beginning - - but now worse off than when they had started.

### **Matthew 13:18-23**

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

**Again Hughes writes;**

When the pursuit of creature comforts displace the pursuit of Christ and His cross, the end draws near. Today the professing Christian, who's own physical and personal needs come before the Lord's will, whose bodily comforts of what and where to eat, and how much he spends to satisfy his own pleasures-pursuits - all work to displace the cross and make one's own belly their god.

**This is what happens in a court of law,  
When that Gavel falls - One judge divides the guilty from  
the not guilty!**

**Hebrews 4:12-13**

For the Word of God (Truth) is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Today, Right Now, In this Service –

God' s word is either uniting His people to one another or it is dividing His people out from among those who are not His people.

**One judge divides the guilty from the not guilty!**

Have you noticed there are those today who  
Are walking away from the truth?

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Have you noticed there are those today who  
just wanna fight and argue about the truth?

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Have you noticed there are those today who  
Their emotions, feelings and wants trump the truth?

### John 5:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Like the Passover Lamb, Like the Blood – it’s that simple, that difficult.

## A United Front Happens

3.) **When we wake-up to our true identity** vs. 20-21

3a.) **We are the remnant of God** vs. 20

For our **citizenship** (*politic*) is in heaven,

Notice with me the **Native Characteristics** of

Those who are of this new life – this new politic

**we** (the “we” statement of Paul’s meaning that it is the **Native Characteristic** of the “**Actual Christian** “we’)

from which we also **eagerly wait**

**also** (meaning, we together) **eagerly wait**

### 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8,10

And you became **followers** of us and of the Lord, having **received** the word in much affliction, with **joy** of the Holy Spirit, **7** so that you became **examples** to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. **8** For from you the word of the Lord has **sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, **10** and **to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from (the wrath to come).** = His 7 year time of judgments upon earth)

## The Promise of the Savior

### John 14:1-3

“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.

## The Hope of the Believer

### Titus 2:13

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

## Our Great Expectation

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### Verse 20c

for the **Savior**, the **Lord Jesus Christ**,

( A Great Name for a Church - Remnant Christian Fellowship )

for the **Savior**

### 1 Timothy 4:10b

Because we trust in **the** living **God**, who is **the Savior** of all men, especially of those who believe.

**the Savior** (*what He has done for us*)

**the Lord** (*His Title*) **Jesus** (*The Name*) **Christ**, (*His Mission*)

A United Front Happens  
When We Wake-Up to Our Identity

3b.) We are the **transformed** of God

vs. 21a

notice here with me – what is it that sets God’s people  
out from among those who fail to “**eagerly wait for the Savior**”

Verse 21a

who will **transform** our **lowly** (not vile) body  
that it may be **conformed** to His **glorious** body,  
Our New Identity has not yet been realized by us, - yet I said...

**Transform** grk: metaschematizo, met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo; to transfigure, change, to appropriate or to apply. Transfer over to or to convey.

**Conformed / Join** grk: ginomai, ghin'-om-ahee; united, bonded together. One. To have advanced to or into one.

**Glorious** grk: doxa, dox'-ah; which means the glory & honor & praise & worship. The meaning is that our new, resurrected bodies will be fitted for heaven and for the presence of God Himself. We will be able to walk up to Him, to speak to Him, to look at Him.

**Psalm 27:4**

One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may  **dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.** – (all speaking of heaven)

It means to have a body that is especially suited  
for eternal joy, peace, love, worship, praise, experience, - pleasures.

### 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NLT)

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. **51** But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **52** It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. **53** For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

### Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is **fullness of joy**;  
At Your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**.

**pleasures** heb: na{iyim, naw-eem´; delightful. pleasant. The Hebrew root word is - - that which is agreeable, to surpass in beauty, to be over-delighted, to be well-pleased, a divine sweetness.

### A United Front Happens When We Wake-Up to Our Identity

3c.) We are the **energized** of God vs. 21b

according to **the working**

by which **He is able** even to **subdue** all things to Himself.

- This is ~~not~~ a reference to the authority of the Holy Spirit.
- This is ~~not~~ a reference to the authority of the Father.

“There is a tremendous energy in the present power of our future hope”

- Warren Wiersbe

We are Filled with His power  
We are Equipped with His word / We are Ordained with a Mission

It is a pure reference to the authority of  
the Resurrected Son of God and it cannot be interpreted in any other manner – it is  
emphatic !

**Working grk:** energeia, en-erg'-i-ah; relevant, effective, strong-work, operational power, the work(s) of God.

**Roman 8:11**

But if the Holy Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**Because of - and based on - the Authority of the Son of God.**

LETS PRAY TO BE FILLED AFRESH WITH THE SPIRIT

**John 16:5-11,13-14**

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment **9** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged... **13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you...”

**John 14:15-18**

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

**COME TO JESUS TODAY**

The **Cross**, The **Christ**, The **Call**

*End of Study*

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