

WALKING INSTRUCTIONS

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Our Heavenly Father longs to teach us how to walk in a wicked world
- Might we seek to please Him by heeding these instructions

I. FOLLOW GOOD EXAMPLES (17)

A. ACCEPT GUIDANCE: Join in following a good example

1. Do not try to go it alone or think that you do not need a guide
2. Paul took the responsibility of being a good example
 - His example was not of pride but as a pattern - See I Cor.11:1

B. WATCH OTHERS: As they apply godliness to life

- Observe them with keen attention

C. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PATTERNS PROVIDED

- Trace their footsteps

II. AVOID ALTERNATIVE PATHS (18-19)

A. THESE ARE POPULAR (18a)

- Many walk this way ... it is not hard to find these.

B. THESE WALKERS ARE PITIABLE (18b)

- Weeping for them was Paul's response

C. THESE WALKERS ARE NOT CHRISTIANS (18c)

1. They are enemies of the cross
2. Warnings about these had been sounded

D. THESE WALKERS ARE SELF-ABSORBED (19)

1. Their end: Destruction > An eternal hopelessness
 - See Luke 12:19-21 and 16:19-23
2. Their god: Sensual appetites that are never satisfied - Rom.16:18
3. Their disgrace: Whose glory is in their shame - Note Rom. 1:28-32
4. Their mindset: Focused on earthly things > Consider Lot in II Peter 2:7-8

III. KNOW YOUR BEARINGS (3:20-4:1)

- It is easy to wander and get lost if you do not keep your bearings

A. A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN (20a)

1. Christians have an other-worldly orientation and obligations - Heb.11:13-16
 - Living here but registered there
2. Citizenship has great value and attendant privileges and responsibilities
 - They were to promote the colony's interests and preserve its dignity

B. ANTICIPATING CHRIST'S RETURN

- Your path has led you to a bus stop where you wait for your ride
1. Eager waiting: Almost an oxymoron! - See I Cor. 1:7
 2. As those who "love His appearing" - II Tim.4:8

C. AWAITING TRANSFORMATION (21)

1. A Complete Change - I Cor.15:40-42, 50-58
2. Conformed with the body of His glory - I John 3:2
3. By the exertion of His power

D. STEADFAST IN CHRIST (4:1)

1. As beloved brothers
2. Standing firm
 - a. Against hostile pagans: The enemies of the cross (3:18)
 - b. Against nominal Christians: The legalists and libertines (3:2)
 - c. Against our own sinful nature: Working out our own salvation (2:12-15)
3. Not swayed from our foundation in Christ

CONCLUSION:

God wants us to walk into Heaven without the bumps and bruises associated with walking our own way.

How are you walking?

- Are you stumbling around?
- Have you fallen away?
- Get up and learn to walk in the ways of God!