**Sermon Series:**

**HOW TO ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

*(a verse-by-verse study of Philippians)*

***How to Be Successful in Your Pursuit of Christlikeness*** *(Part 1)*

**Philippians 3:17-21**

In these verses, Paul says there are ***3*** things which must be true in our lives if we’re going to have success in our pursuit of Christlikeness**:**

**I. We Must After The** *(v 17)*

In this verse, Paul does something that is always a dangerous thing to do - for here he actually designated himself as an \_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_ that other believers should follow.

Paul wasn’t placing himself on a pedestal, he was simply giving the Philippians *a conc*rete example of Christian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that they could follow.

The words that are translated ***“imitating”***and***“example”*** are words from which we get our English word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In the Greek, the phrase ***“keep your eyes on”*** actually means “to fix your attention on something with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of following it.”

**II. We Must From The** *(vv 18-19)*

In order to effectively pursue the goal of Christlikeness, it is not only important to follow the right examples, but it’s equally important that we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the wrong ones!

The greatest threat to the churches in the First Century came from ***2*** groups**:** the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

You can imagine the kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ influence that this kind of teaching would have on a church.

The phrase ***“enemies of the cross of Christ”*** suggests that while these people professed to be believers, they were actually set in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to everything that the cross stands for.

**Matthew 15:8**

Be aware of those who say that they believe in Christ, but never let it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their lives!

**Paul pronounced a *4-fold* indictment against them:**

***‘Their end is destruction’*** *(v 19a)*

The Greek word translated ***“end”*** refers to someone’s ultimate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

You can’t stand opposed to the cross of Christ and expect anything less than that kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***‘Their god is their belly’*** *(v 19b)*

The Greek word here includes all that belongs to the body, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life of man.***(I Corinthians 15:32****;* ***Romans 16:18)***

***‘They glory in their shame’*** *(v 19c)*

This phrase simply means that they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about things that they should have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of. ***(Romans 1:32)***

***‘They set their minds on earthly things’*** *(v 19d)*

Paul says that these people are earthly minded, that is, they \_\_\_\_\_\_ the world!

***(James 4:4******I John 3:15)***

**Conclusion:**

***When it comes to pursuing Christlikeness, the people who you*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***and the people who you*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***will greatly determine whether or not you will be successful.***

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