

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Citizens of Heaven*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 3:20-4:1

REVIEW

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 3:17-19, Paul calls the Philippians to press on by imitating himself and Timothy. Because there are many enemies of the cross, the Philippians must be diligent in following those who follow Christ.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 3:17-19

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 3:12-4:1.
2. In verse 17, the Philippians are commanded to imitate Paul. How can Paul make such an audacious claim when he's not perfect? Discuss the difference between imitating/following and copying.
3. Notice that Paul says, "keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example..."
 - a. What's the importance of *keeping* our eyes on others? What does keeping require?
 - b. What's the importance of looking for those who walk?
4. Why is Paul so concerned that the Philippians follow him and Timothy? How might Paul's concerns apply to us?
5. What is Paul's attitude? What causes him to have such an attitude? How might we cultivate the same?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 3:20-4:1

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Re-read Philippians 3:20-4:1.
2. In verse 20 Paul says, "our citizenship is in heaven." What does that mean? To help, notice the first words in verse 20 is "But." What is Paul contrasting with "our citizenship in heaven"?
3. What impact does heavenly citizenship have on us in the here and now?
4. Paul says, "from [heaven] we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - a. What does this waiting look like?
 - b. Discuss how this waiting is not passive.

- c. How can we practically wait for our Savior?
5. What does it mean that Jesus will “transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body?” Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-49. How would this give the Philippians hope? How should it give us hope?
6. What does Paul mean when he says, Jesus has the power that “enables him even to subject all things to himself.” What encouragement should this provide for us?
7. What is Paul’s concluding exhortation in 4:1? How does a heavenly hope help us stand firm?
8. What do you notice about Paul’s language for the Philippian church? What does it mean the Philippians are Paul’s “joy” and “crown”? How does this inform the way we are to view Restoration Church?
9. General Bible study questions:
 - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are you actively imitating/following those who press on toward Christ? Are you actively striving to imitate Christ for others to follow?