**Philippians 3:17 -21**

**Focal Truth: Believers must commit to live by the truths they have been taught following the example of godly**

**Observations**

1. Paul lived as an example for believers – 3:17
2. Spiritual parenting – 1 Cor. 4:14 – 15 – I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel

Gal. 4:19 – my children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you

2 Thess. 3:7, 9 – for you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you…in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.

1. Paul encouraged the church to observe the lifestyle of those who live by the pattern of teaching given from the Apostle – 3:17
2. Join in following – symmimetes = imitator of others – mimic
3. Join in following my example - 1 Cor. 4:16 – therefore be imitators of me

1 Tim. 1:16 – yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life

Heb. 13:7 – remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you, and considering the result of their way of life, imitate their faith

1. Paul warns of those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ – 3:18
2. The outcome of their life is destruction - 3:19

destruction – apoleia = destroying or perishing

1. Their god is their desires – 3:19
2. They live proudly in shame – 3:19
3. They set their mind on earthly things – 3:19

Rom. 8:5 – 8 – for those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God

1. Paul reminds the church that believers are citizens of heaven – 3:20

Citizenship – politeuma = a state or commonwealth

1. Fellow citizens with all the saints of God – Eph. 2:19 – so you are no longer strangers and aliens but you are fellow citizens with the saints and the household of God
2. United with Christ in heaven – Col.3:1-3 – you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God …you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God
3. Paul reminds the church that believers wait for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior – 3:20
4. Eagerly waiting for Jesus to return – Rom. 8:23 – not only this, but also we ourselves having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
5. Paul reminds the church of the glorious transformation of the believer at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – 3:21

**Things to Remember**

1. If someone imitated your life, would they be a serious follower of Jesus Christ?
2. People see the truth in the believer better than hearing the truth from a believer
3. Spiritual leader’s lifestyles should be easily imitated