

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS

(Philippians 3:17-19)

- I. PAUL WARNED THE PHILIPPIANS OF DOCTRINAL ERROR (3:1-6)
- II. PAUL COUNTED ALL THINGS AS LOSS FOR CHRIST HIS SAVIOR (3:7-9)
- III. PAUL'S BURNING DESIRE TO KNOW CHRIST (3:10-12)
- IV. PAUL'S SINGLE MINDEDNESS OF PRESSING TOWARDS THE GOAL (3:13-14)
- V. PAUL'S APPEAL FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH (3:15-16)
- VI. PAUL AND OTHERS WERE TO BE AN EXAMPLE (3:17)

A. No doubt the Philippians wanted a tangible, visible standard as to what the Christian life looked like in action, and under the leading of the Spirit Paul used _____ as the _____.
(3:17a)

1. On a purely human level the evidence could not be denied, the Apostle was the ideal _____, the ideal _____, the ideal _____, the ideal Bible _____, with the ideal _____.

2. The word "*following*" literally means joint _____; the Apostle made an appeal for the Philippians to _____ (pres./imper.) him in becoming examples themselves.

B. Earlier in the letter he had already mentioned Timothy and Epaphroditus as role _____ of faithfulness and there most likely was _____ when he wrote, "*and note those who so walk.*" (3:17b)

1. The word for "*note*" (pres./act./imper.) means to _____ intently; the Philippians were called to continually _____ other faithful believers who walked in the same manner as Paul.

2. In v. 17 notice the shift in pronouns from "_____ *example*" to "_____ *for a pattern,*" as he identified with his fellow laborers in ministry.

VII. PAUL DESCRIBES CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (3:18-19)

A. The Apostle had learned the hard way in ministry that whatever God had _____, Satan would soon mount a _____.

1. There is some debate as to whom the “many” is a reference to in v. 18...

a. Carnal Christians who have moved far from the cross-

b. The unsaved legalistic Judaizers-

c. The unsaved antinomian Gnostics-

2. Apparently when the Apostle was with the believers in Philippi _____ or when he had written _____, he repeatedly warned them of this very thing, “*I have told you often.*”

3. Just as Paul had warned the Ephesian church with _____ (Acts 20:31), here too while he dictated his letter he _____.

4. He wept because of the _____ these “*enemies of the cross*” often left in their wake.

B. The defender of the faith described these enemies in four distinct ways...

1. their end was _____ (v. 19a)

2. their god was their _____ (v. 19b)

3. their glory was in their own _____ (v. 19c)

4. they had set their mind on _____ things (v. 19d)

* How can you apply this truth personally?