

September 28, 2025
Philippians 3:17-4:1
“Stand Firm”

Principles And Practical Application

Paul's life's ambition was to be more like Christ. He did not hesitate to tell the Philippians to follow his example. Imitate me, he said. Not that he was perfect but he was in a relentless pursuit of Christlikeness. Follow Paul and those in the church who are doing the same he wrote. Someone is following you, be sure you are not leading them down the wrong path. Follow my example says Paul. Imitate me; if everyone in this church did that by your example, what would the church look like? What if everyone attended, gave, served, studied, and had a prayer life just like yours?

Their stomachs are their gods. The most important thing to them was their own physical desires and self-seeking ambitions, not God's will for their lives. See **Romans 16:17-18**. Live for the glory of God.

At the time of the rapture those in Christ will be transformed into the identical character of His glorious body. Every child of God made like the Son of God, **I John 3:2**, all will have glorified bodies. The resurrected body will be like Christ's and their sanctification will be completed. Old Testament saints are resurrected at the Second Coming, and then one last resurrection at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.

Most people's primary goal for existing is to gain their own satisfaction with things perceived “needed” and to fulfill their every “desire” to reach the end goal of being happy, content, and fulfilled. Many so called preachers preach this way these days to help their followers fulfill their goals all the while lining their pockets for being good motivational speakers. A win, win, so they think. Avoid unbiblical teaching. All of this so easily leads to a “man centered” theology and not a “Christ centered” one. Jesus taught, if you want to come after Me, you must deny yourself, take up, your cross every day and follow Me. The real goal is to conform to the image of Jesus, His words, come follow Me, have not been replaced.

For a preacher to stand in the pulpit and produce a human needs theology he makes himself an enemy of the cross. They make themselves look and sound good to tickle ears but they are poisonous and deadly, see **II Timothy 4:3-4**. The NT has many examples of people who were false teachers. Jesus and others warned of the danger of their deception. John wrote for followers of Christ to test them. How do you do that? Filter every word they speak through the Word of God. The problem is exacerbated when “Christians” who are lazy and filled with apathy hear unsound doctrine and are misled because they have not studied the Word of God to show themselves able to rightly divide the Word of Truth. Meditate on **Acts 20:28-31**, this warning is nothing new. Live your life in such a way that those who are following you will also be able to stand firm in the face of adversity. Remember, the end goal is found in **Philippians 3:10**. Make a conscious decision every morning to dedicate your life to Jesus. Make a choice.

Application:

False teachers do exist. They are dangerous, flee from them. Be very careful who you follow, study under, and learn from. Walk in a way that guides those who are following you into TRUTH. The only TRUTH is biblical truth in all spiritual matters. Stand your ground, stand firm on your biblical convictions.