HEAVEN IS HOME (Phil. 3:17–21)
Nov. 1, 2026

Text: Phil. 3:17–21

Main Idea--Because believers belong to heaven and await its Savior, we must follow godly examples, reject cross-denying ways, and live in expectation of Christ's return.

Memory Verse—**Col. 3:2**

1. FOLLOW GODLY EXAMPLES (Phil. 3:17)—Paul's words to "Join in imitating me" was a call to the Philippians and to all Christ followers to engage in shared discipleship, not personal celebrity. Paul offers a pattern of pursuing Christ—not a claim to sinless perfection.

1 Tim. 4:12, 15-16; 1 Cor. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:1

Application--Identify a mature believer whose humility, repentance, and obedience you can observe. Learn from that person's habits of faithfulness, not simply their personality. Ask: "If someone followed my example this week, would it help them follow Christ?"

2. FLEE FROM ENEMIES OF THE CROSS (Phil. 3:18–19)—Paul gives a sober warning regarding people who walk as "enemies of the cross of Christ." Their lives reveal appetites/ desires treated as gods, shame celebrated as glory, earthly-mindedness, and an end in destruction.

Notice 4 ungodly descriptions: *Their destination: "Their end is destruction (V 18)"—their path leads to judgment. **Luke 13:24-28**

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*Their master: "Their god is their belly"—bodily appetites, addictions & ungodly/ out of control desires take the place of God. They are slaves to these lusts/ appetites.

*Their values: "They glory in their shame"—they boast in what should bring repentance.

*Their outlook: Their "minds [are] set on earthly things"—their horizon excludes allegiance to heaven's King.

Prov. 14:12

Application--Examine influences—teachers, friendships, entertainment—that normalize what Christ calls you to reject. Ask: "What appetite is demanding my obedience? What sin am I tempted to celebrate?" Refuse corrupting influence without treating people with contempt. Paul's example calls for both discernment and tears.

3. FOCUS ON ETERNITY WITH THE LORD (Phil. 3:20–21)—Paul reminds the Philippian Christians that though they're in this world as citizens of Philippi, they're not of this world as citizens of Heaven. Being a citizen of Heaven speaks to the Christian's identity, expectations, & hopes for the future.

Jn. 3:3; Jn. 1:12-13

- Our present identity: V 20 says Our citizenship "is" in heaven. Belonging to Christ is a present reality, not merely a future possibility.

- Our personal expectation: V 20 declares "We await a Savior"—not simply a better place or relief from hardship. **(Jn. 14:1-3)**

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- Our future transformation: V 21 says Jesus will transform our "lowly body" to be like his "glorious body."

- Our certain foundation: V 21 says The promise rests on Christ's power to "subject all things to himself," not on our ability to improve ourselves.

Col. 3:1–4; 1 Jn. 3:2–3

Rev. 21:4

Rev. 21:22-23, 27

Randy Alcorn—*That's why we need to spend our lives cultivating our love for Heaven. That's why we need to meditate on what Scripture says about Heaven, read books on it, have Bible studies, teach classes, and preach sermons on it. We need to talk to our children about Heaven. When we're camping, hiking, or driving, when we're at a museum, a sporting event, or a theme park, we need to talk about what we see around us as signposts of the New Earth*.

Application--*In suffering, remember that your body's present weakness will not have the final word. **In temptation, ask: "Does this choice fit the citizenship I already possess?" ***In daily responsibilities, serve faithfully. Focusing on eternity means honoring the coming King today, not abandoning present duties.

CONCLUSION

> Follow godly examples by answering the question, Whose footsteps are shaping your walk?

> Flee from enemies of the cross by answering the question, What influences or appetites is the Holy Spirit leading you to refuse?

> Focus on eternity with the Lord by answering the question, How will you let Christ's promised return change your choices today?