

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

An Example Worth Following

October 27, 2024

The Choices Before Us

Philippians 3:17-4:1

KEY VERSES

*¹ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship^[a] is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation^[b] that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,^[c] by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.*

As Paul writes this letter from prison, he thinks about his legacy, and urges his friends to continue to live by the example set before them in Christ. We too learn from the good examples God has placed in our lives. **Who has modeled a good example for you in your life? What about their example do you most strive to imitate?**

Paul also reminds us to distinguish between earthly things, and our citizenship in heaven. As Christians, we are living in Christ's kingdom now. **But if our citizenship is in heaven, what does it mean that we are still on earth? How does this impact the way you live now, as a Christian with hopeful expectation, especially during the difficult seasons?**

Since imitation is the best way to learn, we especially observe how others navigate adversity and try to imitate their character. We are especially strengthened for this work through community, as Paul models for us, staying close to his friends. On this All Saint's Sunday we are reminded that our lives are fleeting, to love each other, and to celebrate the resurrection and what it means in our lives. **As you examine your own life as well, think about what marks you will leave behind for those who follow you.** When we trust that God is weaving us into a story way bigger than ourselves, we celebrate that Jesus is the story. He's our example, our Saviour, and the one who lives in those we imitate!