



Learn Your Bible

Short Study 071: Philippians Study 6 Keeping up the Standard

Study Author: Michael Button

Read Philippians 3:15 – 4:3

Introduction: Paul had been telling the Philippians of his determination to reach the highest possible standard of Christlikeness (see Study 5). He now exhorts his readers to do likewise.

v15 *Mature.* Paul is thinking of those who are *spiritually* mature, i.e. having the right thinking and attitudes. What do you think these should be (in general terms)?

v16 *Don't fall back.* (NLT version says *we must hold on to the progress we have already made.*) Do we sometimes expect too much of others if they don't live up to our standards?

v17 *Follow my example.* Can you say without reservation "follow *me*"?

vs 18-19. *Enemies of the cross of Christ.* Verse 19 sets forth four ways in which they are enemies of the cross. Can you identify them? :

The way of the Cross	The way of the flesh
Heading for life	
Discounting the flesh	
Giving glory to God	
Setting mind on heaven	

v20 *Heavenly citizenship.* Christians belong to heaven. What does 2 Corinthians 5:20 say we are on this earth and what responsibilities does that involve?

Christ is coming from there. How eager are we for His arrival?

v21 *Transformation.* When Christ returns He will transform us from earthly beings to heavenly beings – like Himself. The only clue to what our bodily form will be like in heaven is what Jesus told the Sadducees (in Mark 12:25). What did He say?

4:1 *Stand fast.* The term 'therefore' points to a reason for standing fast. What is it?

4.1 *Affection.* Notice Paul's three expressions of deep affection for the Philippians.

4:2-3 *Disagreement.* It seems that two women who were active workers in the Philippian church were arguing. Paul appeals to them to "Be of the same mind in the Lord". What do you think this means?

Help Paul urges others in the Church to help these women. Help them do what?

To think about: How well am I living up to the standards expected of a Christian?

To dig deeper: Read what various commentators say about Chapter 3 verses 18-19.