



Philippians

Having The Mind of Christ

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Lesson 9 (Philippians 3:15-21) The Mind of Christ Regarding Maturity

Philippians 3:15-21
(New King James Version)

15. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
16. Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.
17. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
18. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:
19. whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.
20. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21. who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Intro

1. Understanding verses 15 and 16 demand an understanding of verses 12-14.
2. What three things does Paul say he had not accomplished?
 - a. Verse 12 –
 - b. Verse 12 –
 - c. Verse 13 –
3. What three things did Paul say he was doing?
 - a. Verse 12 –
 - b. Verse 13 –
 - c. Verse 14 –

Attitude of the Mature (3:15-16)

1. There is a problem in some translations. In verse 12, Paul says he was not yet made perfect. Yet, in verse 15 some translations say, “Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect...” The word in verse 15 should probably be translated “mature”. (See 1 Corinthians 14:20 and Hebrews 5:14 where the same word is used).
2. Did Paul expect all in Philippi to be mature? Can we expect that now?
3. If Paul wished all who were mature to be like-minded with him, what attitude would they have (see verses 12-14)?
4. What did Paul want all to do, regardless of the degree of maturity or attainment?
5. How would this affect the unity of the congregation?

Examples for the Mature (3:17-19)

1. Why could Paul be confident in urging that they follow his example?
2. Who were the others who were to be noted and followed?
3. Name some who may have been included in this number who were known to the Philippians.
4. What are the characteristics of those who are designated “enemies of the cross”?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. Do you think these “enemies of the cross” were in the church or out of the church? Justify your answer.
6. One translation of the third clause in verse 19 is “who glory in those things of which they should be ashamed.” Name those shameful things that many people glory in today.
7. Think of the most admired men and women among Christians of our day, both young and old. Which description do they most often fit, that of verse 17 or that of verse 19?

Hope of the Mature

1. The King James translation of 3:20 says, “Our conversation is in Heaven...” What word is used in other translations? The Greek word here is *politeuma*, and is related to our word for political or metropolitan.
2. From a previous lesson, how were the Philippians especially qualified to appreciate such a statement?
3. What word describes our present body? Into what will Christ transform it when He comes again?
4. By what power will this transformation be accomplished?
5. What is the logical present day life of one whose hope is set upon this transformation (see 1 John 3:2-3)?