

March 8, 2015

Philippians 3: 17-21



OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon)

READ Philippians 3:17-21

- Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the scripture)

- What was your main take away from this weekend's sermon? Why? Share this with your group.
- When you look at your life would you describe it as more of a marathon or a sprint? And secondly, more of an obstacle course than an oval track (going around on the same path/lane over and over)?
- Read verse 17, Paul is talking about imitating him (a metaphor to keeping pace with him in the race).

Why is Paul saying to imitate him?

Who is Paul imitating?

Why is it important in our spiritual journey to be around others who are imitating Christ?

- Look at verses 18 & 19, then verses 20 & 21.

What are the two paths or patterns that Paul is talking about? (Look at Romans 12:2 if you need another reference.)

- In verses 18 & 19 Paul talks about conforming to the patterns of the world, blending in and becoming like the world. Paul isn't necessarily talking about committing "major" evils or living in "large-scale" sins, but it's becoming and looking like the world and not Jesus. This means being jaded and complacent. It means making excuses for not living like Jesus.

Why is it easy to find ourselves just blending in?

What does it mean to blend in by being jaded and complacent to the way of Jesus?

- In verses 20 & 21 Paul talks about transformation:

The process of transformation (not that it can be reduced to a linear process) is:

- 1) Surrender everything (all) to Jesus.
- 2) Then He meets you right where you're at, exactly for who you are, in your brokenness and in your messiness.
- 3) He starts/continues to form you into His pattern, His image. You become more and more like Him, you are becoming the person He desires you to be.
- 4) At the end of the path of Transformation is new life, this is where our lowly bodies become like his glorious body.