

# **The Heavenly Mindset** Philippians 3:15-21

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

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 mind earthly things.)20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Having stated his own priority of pressing toward Christlikeness, Paul now encourages a joint following after his example. Christians should seek out good examples and be good examples to others. Ultimately, following good examples is in pursuit of our highest hope: the future return of Jesus, our heavenly home, and our glorification in Him! Such a mindset will allow God's guidance toward unity even when we may differ in our various stages of Christian growth.

# THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

## Part 1 – True Maturity

Read Philippians 3:12-16; 1 Corinthians 2:4-6, 11-16

- 1) According to these verses what is the mindset of mature (perfect) believers?
- 2) According to 1 Corinthians 2 what characterizes those that are "perfect" (mature)?
- 3) Would you consider yourself a mature believer? Why?

### Part 2—Following Together

Read Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12

- 1) The word "followers" is literally "co-followers" or "togetherfollowers." What does Paul encourage the brethren to do together?
- 2) How does Paul's instruction to Timothy compliment his instructions to the Philippians?
- 3) How does "togetherness" affect how and what you follow?

### Part 3—The Wrong Examples

Read Philippians 3:18-19; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-7

- 1) What draws the attention of those who are the "enemies of the cross"?
- 2) How does Paul instruct the Thessalonians to determine whom they should follow?
- 3) Have you ever followed a wrong example? How did that hinder your Christian walk?

Part 4—Our Heavenly Goal Read Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; Titus 2:11-14

- 1) According to this passage what do Christians eagerly anticipate?
- 2) According to Colossians 3 how should our heavenly perspective affect our current life?
- 3) How has your blessed hope (Titus 2:13) affected you lately?