

Title: PREPARED FOR THE JOURNEY, PHILIPPIANS 3:17 – 4:1
(Chatham, NJ; 02/24/13, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: The Apostle Paul reveals three things that we must do in order to continue our journey to our one and only home, heaven.

Purpose: To exhort the congregation to remain steadfast and continue their journey faithfully by imitating the right examples, rejecting an earthly lifestyle, and remembering that our citizenship is in heaven.

Introduction:

1. Abraham set out on a journey to a land promised to him.
2. Israel journeyed to the Land of Canaan.
3. Jesus set out on a journey that climaxed in Jerusalem, Luke 9:51.
4. Early Christians were said to follow “The Way.”
5. Paul, in Philippians 3:17-4:1 provides guidance for the journey.

I. Imitation, 3:17

- A. Israel
 1. Be holy because God is holy
 2. They were to imitate the God they worshipped
 3. Joshua’s leadership provided the image of faithfulness, Josh. 24:15
- B. Keep your eyes on Jesus, Heb. 12:2-4
 1. The one who perfected our faith
 2. The one who endured hostility
 3. The one who shed his blood for us
 4. Sometimes we endure persecution, 1 Peter 2:20-21
 5. Yet we keep our eyes on him
- C. Imitate Paul and other good examples
 1. Imitate my example, Paul says
 2. Look for others who have also set a good example
 3. Note the importance of modeling Christianity for others
 4. It is an enduring witness to the Gospel

II. Reject the earthly lifestyle, 3:18-19

- A. Beware of the nations
 1. Israel told not to imitate the ways of the nations
 2. God was driving them out because of their evil ways
 3. Jesus resisted the temptations of the world, Luke 4
 4. He was tempted in every way, yet without sin, Heb. 4:15
 5. Jesus also resisted Herod’s threats, Luke 13:31-33
 6. Notice that Jesus is determined to finish his journey to the Holy City
- B. Paul describes the adversaries
 1. Their end is destruction
 2. Their god is the belly: no restraint or moderation
 3. Glory in their shame: proud of their self-indulgence
 4. They have an earthly mindset
 5. Paul advises the Colossians in 3:2 to set their minds above on spiritual things

III. Heavenly Citizenship, 3:20

- A. The journey mindset: this is not your real home
 - 1. We live as pilgrims
 - 2. We live in a foreign country
 - 3. We long for our true home, Heb. 11:13-16 (read)

- B. We look for our savior to come for us, 3:20-21
 - 1. He will come from the heavenly dwelling
 - 2. He will transform our body
 - 3. He has the power to do that and to subject all things to himself
 - 4. He has authority over the universe, its elements, and all mankind

Conclusion:

- 1. Keep the hope of your eternal destination ever before you.
- 2. Look for good examples to follow.
- 3. Though no one is perfect, look for the good each one has and imitate that.
- 4. Remember the power of Christ: he conquered death.
- 5. Don't grow weary on your journey.
- 6. Stand firm, 4:1