

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:17-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“A UNITED FRONT” – PART 1

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

What a “Resolute Calling” it was - that The great Apostle had from the Lord,

(1) That of Proclaiming the Gospel to all that would hear – and if by God’s grace some would receive it (2) He then would teach / disciple them in the “Word of Life” and if they should believe it, (3) Then they would be given opportunity to put what they had learned into action.

And I appreciate his dedication to it – leaving the results to God.

Philippians 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write **the same things** to you is not **tedious**, but for you it is **safe**.

He says “Finally”, and then goes on for 2 more chapters...

Philippians 3:17-21

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.

A United Front Happens

1.) **When we set Christ as our One goal: vs. 17**

1a.) **Because we all have but One Example: vs. 17a**

17a Brethren, **join in following my example,**

*It's part of our human complex ion - - that we become
like those who influence us.*

All of us have this “**Chalkboard like**” propensity to look to our spiritual instructors, our leaders, with a certain kind of sanctified scrutiny, and for good reason - - we tend to hold them to a higher level of expectation, performance, integrity, & judgment - and I agree.

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers,**
knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

This Issue of “Knowing” vs. “Cooperating” with what is known, Jesus spoke of:

Luke 12:40-48

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” **41** Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?” **42** And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? **43** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **44** Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. **45** But if that servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming,” and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. **47** And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. **48** But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone **to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**

But what does this mean to me?

Join grk: ginomai, ghin´-om-ahee; unite or bond together. to become united as one.
action as in moving together or advancing together as one in the same direction.

This may seem like a strange illustration,

but it's one that has proven to be undefeated

Joined in a “United Front” means to “Stand Firm” Together.

(1)

https://qph.ec.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-761dc1fca22d8cdf2e712ca0801aac9a-c?convert_to_webp=true

(2)

<http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/romanphalanx07sm.jpg>

The Latin word **sub'stō** means to be under-another, or huddled together, to hold out. To become unmovable or fixed together.

In ancient warfare

three very debilitating fears overcame the enemy. **First**, the opposition would exhaust their munitions. **Second**, the opposition would expend their energy, **Third**, their will to fight would breakdown – that was the time to strike.

(3)

http://hroarr.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/rome_legion-iii.jpg?e5ee48

Following grk: summimetes, soom-mim-ay-tace´; a co-imitator, a fellow devotee, to walk in the shadow of another – to mirror or mimic the shape and movement.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Though **one** may be overpowered by another, **two** can withstand him.
And a **threefold** cord is not quickly broken.

A United Front Happens When We Set Christ As Our One Goal

1b.) Because we all have but One Lifestyle: vs. 17b

17b and **note** those who so walk, as you have us for a **pattern**.

Note grk: skopeo, skop-eh´-o; to take aim at them. to spy on them. to consider all their ways of living and conduct.

Walk grk: peripateo, per-ee-pat-eh´-o; to tread about. to put your footprints everywhere.
To walk at-large, publicly for all to see.

Pattern grk: tupos, too´-pos; to strike a pose. To cast into a die, to stamp or scar an image. to take on the style, the model, the figure of another.

But what does this mean to me?

This is a call to unite around the Word.

A United Front Happens
When We Set Christ As Our One Goal

1c.) **Because we all have but One Family:** vs. 17c

17c Brethren, **join** in **following** my **example**, and **note** those who so walk,
as you have us for a **pattern**.

Every "True" Believer – Every "Qualified" Christian Has an "Internal" birthmark.

1 John 5:19-20

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

News Flash - Personality Cults will Soon be Dissolving.

A United Front Happens

2.) **When we hold Truth as preeminent:** vs. 18-19

2a.) **Because Truth is the One Power:** vs. 18a

18a For many walk, (not a few) of whom I have told you often, and now tell you
even **weeping**,

Immediately I'm struck by how far the church

has backslidden from such a practical position.

This is both an **Admonition** and an **Exhortation**.

An **Admonition** because he *"is warning them about a common danger among those who say they are Christians"* and he gives an **Exhortation** when he says, *"I've told you so often and I will not stop keeping it before your mind"*

But what does this mean?

There is no getting around this grave warning.

The Greek structure of this verse means that these are people who once "did claim to be Christians" or they "are still claiming to be Christians" ***but their lifestyle and or doctrine proved otherwise.***

1 John 2:18-19

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1st Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2nd Peter 2:1-3

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. 3 In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

COME TO JESUS TODAY
The Cross, The Christ, The Call

_____ *End of Study* _____

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