

# Studies in Philippians

Lesson VI

**Text:** Philippians 3:10-21 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

<sup>17</sup> Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

# Questions for Discussion

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1. What did the apostle Paul want more than anything else (vv 10-11)?
  - a. Should this be the desire of every Christian?
  
2. Did Paul think that God was finished with him yet (vs. 12)?
  - a. Is God finished with you?
  
3. What became the driving focus of Paul's life, once Jesus "took hold" of him? (vv. 12-14).
  - a. What "goal" and "prize" are you "straining toward"?
  
4. What perspective does a mature Christian have (vs. 15a, cf. vv 7-14)?
  - a. What about those believers who "think differently"—should we write them off as a lost cause (vs. 15b)?
  - b. What does God require of each individual Christian (vs. 16-17)?
  
5. According to verses 18-19, where do the "enemies of the cross of Christ" go wrong?
  
  
6. Describe the responsibilities and benefits of being a "citizen of heaven" (vv 20-21)