

B. Christ will transform our lowly bodies.

- i. “Bodies of our humiliation”
- ii. As we do our part in working out our salvation (empty ourselves), He will do his part: lift us up! Transform us to glory! He is truly at work in those who believe.

C. Our problem is not that we are too heavenly minded to be of earthly good, but quite the opposite.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How has the gospel begun transforming you by transforming your relationships from hostility to peace?
- Are there things in your life which you might think benign, or even good, that are orienting you against God’s purposes?
- What does it mean to be an enemy of the cross? Could we be enemies of the cross without realizing it?
- What biblical evidence can you offer to show that the problem of sin is a problem of hostility with God and one another?
- Among the things that defined your former life, what are you forgetting? E.g. What is your Phinehas story? How did you use power for your own advantage before that you need to forget?
- Does it take a miracle for you to live the Christian life as you conceive it? Explain.
- What would it truly mean for us to live heavenly minded as Paul and Christ did? How does this enable transformed living?

Slaves of Christ – Part 9

Pressing on in the Pursuit of Peace

Jerry Cisar — November 25, 2018

Text: Philippians 3:12-21

Introduction

Stephen E. Fowl: “Whoever these believers are, we must assume that as Christians they did not set out to become enemies of the cross.... If we think of these characters as people who woke up one morning and simply decided to become enemies of the cross, we will not be concerned with Paul’s admonition because it could not conceivably apply to us.”

I. Destination Peace (12-16)

A. What was Paul pursuing?

- i. *Cruciformity* is a *means*, not an *end*.
 - a) The cross was a *means* to peace.
 - Colossians 1:20
 - Ephesians 2:14-17
 - b) To truly be conformed to Christ, is to be conformed not merely to actions but also to the purpose for which He did those actions—the reconciliation of all things!
- ii. The Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
 - a) Isaiah 52:7
 - b) The gospel is about peace with God *and* humanity.

A gospel that only proclaims peace with God and not one another is no gospel, for there is no peace with God that doesn’t transform human

relationships.

B. "Not that I have already obtained all this."

C. "Forgetting what is behind..."

D. "I press on."

When Christ crucified is your Master Story, it leads to peace!

E. "All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things."

Gordon Fee: "What he and they have already 'attained' is an understanding of the gospel in which the life of the Crucified One is the paradigm for those who would be his followers".

II. Destination Destruction (17-19)

A. The Problem

Stephen E. Fowl: "Whoever these believers are, we must assume that as Christians they did not set out to become enemies of the cross, neither would they have characterized themselves that way.... Through a set of decisions and actions... which probably seemed benign (if not good) to them, they now find themselves in a position where they are no longer

capable of rightly recognizing God or God's purposes for them.... If we think of these characters as people who woke up one morning and simply decided to become enemies of the cross, we will not be concerned with Paul's admonition because it could not conceivably apply to us."

i. Romans 1:29-31

ii. Romans 3:9-14

iii. The way of peace (Phil. 2:5-11)

B. Beware of Destination Destruction

i. Belly gods (See James 4:1)

ii. Glorifying in what is shame

iii. Their mind is on earthly things (see also Rom. 8:6).

III. Directives toward the Destination (20-21)

A. Our citizenship is in heaven.

i. Christ had his mind set on the upward call (Heb. 12:2).

Our citizenship is in heaven and it should make a radical difference in how we live in earth!

ii. The upward call.

a) Our call is upward, but the way we get there is by choosing a downward path.

b) Choose the downward path, as Christ did, in order to achieve the upward call.