

Philippians 3:9-21 – The Mind of Christ Regarding Maturity

In thinking about these verses of Philippians, remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (2:5). These verses reveal the attitude towards maturity which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. Think about how having the mind of Christ can improve our own attitudes.

Philippians 3:9-14

- 1) Discuss Paul's use of "righteousness." What is the difference between righteousness "of the law" and "the righteousness which is from God by faith?" On what basis can God impute righteousness to us? On what condition is righteousness obtained?
- 2) What does Paul mean by "know Christ?" Are there different kinds of knowledge? What kind of knowledge does Paul intend?
- 3) How are we "conformed unto His death?" What does Paul mean by attaining unto the resurrection of the dead?
- 4) What three things does Paul say he had not accomplished? What three things did Paul say he was doing?
- 5) What does "forgetting of things that are behind" mean? What are some specific things Paul has in mind when he speaks of forgetting the things that "are behind?" In practical terms, what should this forgetting include in our case?

Philippians 3:15-21

6) What attitude did Paul wish for those who were mature? What did Paul want all to do, regardless of the degree of maturity? How would this affect the unity of the congregation?

7) Why could Paul be confident in urging that they follow his example? Who were the others who were to be noted and followed? Name some who may have been included in this number who were known to the Philippians.

8) Who are the “enemies of the cross” in verses 18 and 19? What are the characteristics Paul lists for them? What are some shameful things that many people glory in today?

9) Discuss “colony of heaven” from the viewpoint of the historical context in Philippi. What are the implications of this heavenly citizenship?

10) What word describes our present body? Into what will Christ transform it when He comes again? By what power will this transformation be accomplished?