

Theme: The Christian life is characterized by the pursuit of Christ, the struggle against sin, and the hope of our glorious future in heaven with Christ.

## I. Intro – 3 Aspects of Salvation

- A. “Have you been saved?”
- B. Three aspects of salvation (table)
  - 1. Justification – penalty of sin; past; all God
  - 2. Sanctification – power of sin; present; God & us
  - 3. Glorification – presence of sin; future; God

## II. Our Present Struggle – Not Yet Arrived

- A. Paul’s ultimate desire: know Christ fully (v10-11)
  - 1. Terms from 10-11
  - 2. One reality – consummation, fully know Christ
- B. Has not achieved yet (vv12-14) – run metaphor
  - 1. Not obtained (v12); not taken hold (v13)
  - 2. I press on (v12, v14) – no looking back
  - 3. Goal/prize: what Christ took hold of him (v12,14)
- C. We strain ahead as runners still in the race
  - 1. Our goal still lies ahead – so we run to Him

- 2. We do not look back, but look to Him

## III. Sanctification – Struggle Against Sin

- A. Living up to what we have been given (vv15-16)
  - 1. Mature (wordplay with ‘perfect’ v12) – v15
  - 2. Have this mind (v15; 2:2 (2x); 2:5))
  - 3. If different mind – God will show you (v15)
  - 4. Live up to what attained – who we are (v16)
- B. Follow godly examples: press on, struggle w/ sin
  - 1. Follow Paul together (v17; 1 Cor 11:1)
  - 2. Note those following pattern we gave (v17)
- C. Warning – some live in peace with sin (vv18-19)
  - 1. Warning AGAIN – common issue (v18)
  - 2. False brothers – itinerant preachers??
    - a. Enemies of cross - don’t want Christ’s suffering
    - b. Destiny – telos (v12, 15) – destruction (hell)
    - c. God is stomach – no restraint (Seneca, et al)
    - d. “Glory” (v21) is in their shame – no shame
    - e. Mind (v15, etc) – on earthly only –

f. Their citizenship here; no heavenly call

3. Their motto: see notes at back

#### **IV. Our Future Glory**

A. Our heavenly hope

1. Our citizenship (1:27) is in heaven
2. We await the Savior (Caesar title) – Jesus

B. Our glorious future

1. At present we live in bodies of lowliness
2. At death/His return – we will be transformed
3. Our bodies will become like His – bodies of glory
4. This is a glorious future – motivates us now!

#### **V. Applying the Word**

A. Do we see that salvation is God's gift to us

1. Never confuse justification & sanctification!
2. Have you received God's free gift?

B. Are we in the struggle – or enemies of the cross?

1. Salvation ALWAYS includes sanctification
2. Are we engaged in a struggle against sin?

3. Do we consciously fight against sin consistently?

4. Beware false teachers who remove cross (justification & sanctification)

5. Always like Christ (2:6-11) – humility/exalted; cross/crown

C. Are we motivated by our heavenly future of glory?

1. This is what motivated Paul through suffering
2. This always motivates suffering church
3. Do we live with an eternal focus?
4. Fee quote

D. Are we pursuing Christ now?

1. Is he our chief desire & greatest hope?
2. Do we chase after Him – means of grace?

#### **Our Present Struggle and Our Future Glory**

Philippians 3:12-21

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???

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Aspect of salvation	What it does	When it occurs	Who does it
Justification	Freedom from penalty of sin	All at once in the past	God
Sanctification	Freedom from the power of sin	Continuous process throughout life	God and us
Glorification	Freedom from the presence of sin	All at once in the future	God

2 then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being one in spirit and **purpose**. Philippians 2:2

5 Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:5

1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor 11:1

The world is remarkably well arranged. I like to sin, and God likes to forgive sin. – Old saying of skeptic

The tragedy that attends the rather thoroughgoing loss of hope in contemporary Western culture is that we are now trying to make the present eternal. Hence North Americans in particular are the most death denying culture in the history of the race. How else, pray tell, can one explain cosmetic surgery having become a multi-million dollar industry? – Fee, pg 350.