

Intro: Army - put in a lot of new situations - don't know what to do - follow

Last thing I want to do is stand out like Harry and Lloyd in Dumber and Dumber

Gideon with weirdo's - Imitate who we admire.

How about a situation where you followed someone and it turned out to be bad?

Truth is, much of what we do is a result of following someone else's example

- Paul recognizes this and talks about it in Philippians 3:17

Vs. 17 - Can sound prideful, not the case with Paul - previous section not perfect

- Use him as an example of what it looks like to follow Jesus
- Follow him only so far as his life corresponds to the teaching of Christ - not blindly

This example can be incredibly helpful

- Fly tying - video and finished product
- Marriage - what to do and what not to do

Following Jesus includes others - Paul issues an invitation to imitate, then a command to keep eyes on their (Paul and Timothy) example

- GC is important - where we follow Jesus together - help one another out with marriage, parenting, work...all as pursue Jesus
- Important to have qualified elders - an example of what it means to follow Christ

Careful of who you follow - Can you think of a situation where you didn't know what to do, so you followed?

- Snowballs at cars as a young teen
- Not every Xian is a good example - even those in church for decades

Vs. 18 - Don't know who Paul referred to, but he was clear on his thoughts

- Not those who slipped into error - walked in it - ongoing way of life
- Enemies of the cross - Paul has such a high view of the cross, this causes him to weep

Challenging part of pastoral ministry - seeing people walk away from Christ - reject the Gospel

Paul's reaction can seem odd - he deeply cared about Christ and people

High view of orthodox theology - sometimes lacking in churches today

- Looked down upon in our culture
- Mention heresy = "you can't tell people what to believe or how to act"
- When people profess to be Xian, we have every right to expect them to subscribe to clear teachings of the Bible and to live accordingly
- Paul would reject our softness to orthodoxy - he wept

People - knew what walking away from Christ meant in the long run

- Knew what Jesus did for them on the cross - he couldn't stand any theological idea that demeaned the cross

Do you view the cross as something worth fighting for? How do you view it?

- Many reject theology out of unity - need to be unified in orthodoxy
- Apostle's creed, Christology statement
- Cannot uphold unity to the detriment of orthodoxy
- 2 handed approach

- G.K. Chesterton (author/theologian) “Theology is simply that part of religion that requires brains” - what we think is vital - impacts how we act

Vs. 19 - Paul describes how they perverted the cross

Destiny is their final destruction - 2 Thess. 1:9 - Eternal separation from God and all that is good

- “I don’t believe in a God like that” - don’t get to pick and choose
- God has revealed himself to be a Holy God who will bring terrible judgment to those who do not know Jesus
- St. Augustine - “If you believe what you like in the gospel and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe in but yourself.”

Exactly what this group Paul refers to is doing

- Their god is their belly - do whatever they want to fulfill their desires
  - Rather than control their appetites, they allow their appetites to control them
- Their glory - what should be shameful, they glorify
  - Our culture hates shame - instead of turning to Jesus who forgives and takes shame away (Joy in Salvation) and then walking w/Christ in a changed life (Joy in Sanctification)
  - Let’s just do what we want and say it’s not shameful
- Minds on earthly things - live like there is no god, no heaven/hell (all there is)

Vs. 20-21 - We are to live/act/think differently

- Citizens in heaven - sojourners (passing through) - ambassadors
- This is not our permanent place/home
- Here for a period of time - belong to God (act like it) -
- In Army told to represent well - Mongolia (American, act like it)

Joy in Glorification  
Philippians 3:17-21

Jesus will come back - great reward for those in Christ

- Perfected bodies - no pain, sadness, death - live w/Christ
- This life is practice for eternity

2 examples - must be discerning & careful of which one you choose

- Must decide which to follow & resist the pull of the wrong examples
- Xian life is not easy, but worth it

That's why Paul finds joy in Glorification - get to be with Christ