



## Studies in Philippians: Bearing the Mark of Joy

*The Joy of Finishing Well – Part Three*  
Philippians 3:17-21

### Sermon Question

What will it take for you to finish well?

**Finishers Imitate the Christ-like ..... 3:17**

**Finishers Embrace the Message of the Cross.....3:18-19**

**Finishers Live as Citizens of Heaven .....3:20-21**

## Live It!

### **Identify Christ-followers worth imitating.**

What change will you make this week to be like a finisher?

### **Identify the Voices that Speak into Your Life.**

Are they enemies or friends of the cross?

### **Identify as a Citizen of Heaven**

Read. Memorize. Pray Romans 12:1-2.

*Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship. Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.*

Romans 12:1-2 (The Passion Translation)

*Precious Lord, we have presented ourselves to You as living sacrifices. We have offered ourselves up to God. We are not of the world, even as You are not of the world. Lord, let our mind be transformed by the renewing of the Holy Spirit, that we may rightly see what the spirit of this world is. And let it be seen in us that we are not of this world, but are conformed to Jesus. Amen.*

Prayer of Andrew Murry

## **Open It!**

If you lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman Empire. in what sport would you want to participate, chariot racing, archery, spear throwing, or the marathon? Why?

How do athletes serve as examples to the Christ-follower?

## **Read It!**

Philippians 3:17-21

## **Consider It!**

Paul calls the Philippians to follow his example. What aspects of Paul's life and faith are worth following (3:1-21)?

Who are the exemplary Christ-followers in our church family? What specific change could you make this week to follow their example?

What are the characteristics of those who are "enemies of the cross" (3:18-19)? Note these are enemies within the church, not the world.

How do the first century legalists (Judaizers) diminish the message of the cross (3:2; Acts 15:1; Gal. 1:6-7, 2:11-16)?

Who are 21<sup>st</sup> Century enemies of the cross within the church? What messages do they proclaim that diminish the message of the cross?

Where is your citizenship (3:20)?

Who is speaking into your life? Whose message is influencing your thoughts and actions?

How can you ensure that Christ is Lord of your thoughts and actions (3:21; Romans 12:1-2)?