

Philippians  
3:17-4:1

Living as Citizens of Heaven

Remember  
Who You Are

Philippians 3:17-4:1

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

<sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Philippians 3:17–4:1 (NASB95)

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3:17-4:1

Living as Citizens of Heaven

Remember  
Who You Are

# Remember Who You Are

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:17)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:18-19)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)



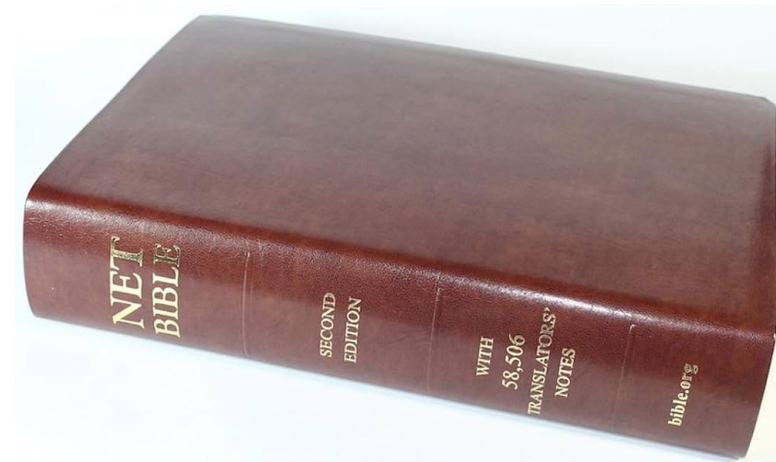
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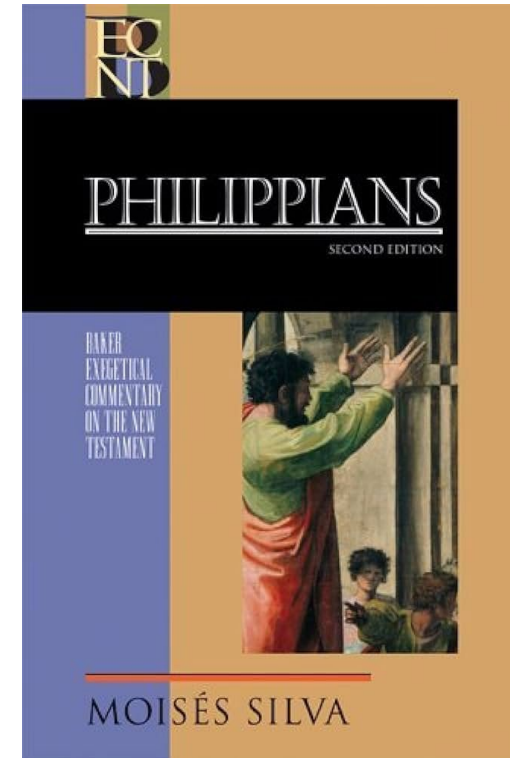
17 **Brethren**, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17 (NASB95)

tn Grk “brothers,” but the Greek word may be used for “brothers and sisters” or “fellow Christians” as here (cf. BDAG 18 s.v. ἀδελφός 1, where considerable nonbiblical evidence for the plural ἀδελφοί [adelphoi] meaning “brothers and sisters” is cited).



Paul asks the Philippians to follow his example, not because he has achieved perfection, but because he is struggling in the same race that they are running (cf. 1:30).<sup>11</sup> Quite naturally, therefore, he identifies himself with them by the use of an affectionate and humble term, “brothers.”



<sup>17</sup> Brethren, **join in following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17 (NASB95)

“become my fellow-imitators”

συμμιμητής

συν – “with”

μιμητής – “imitator”

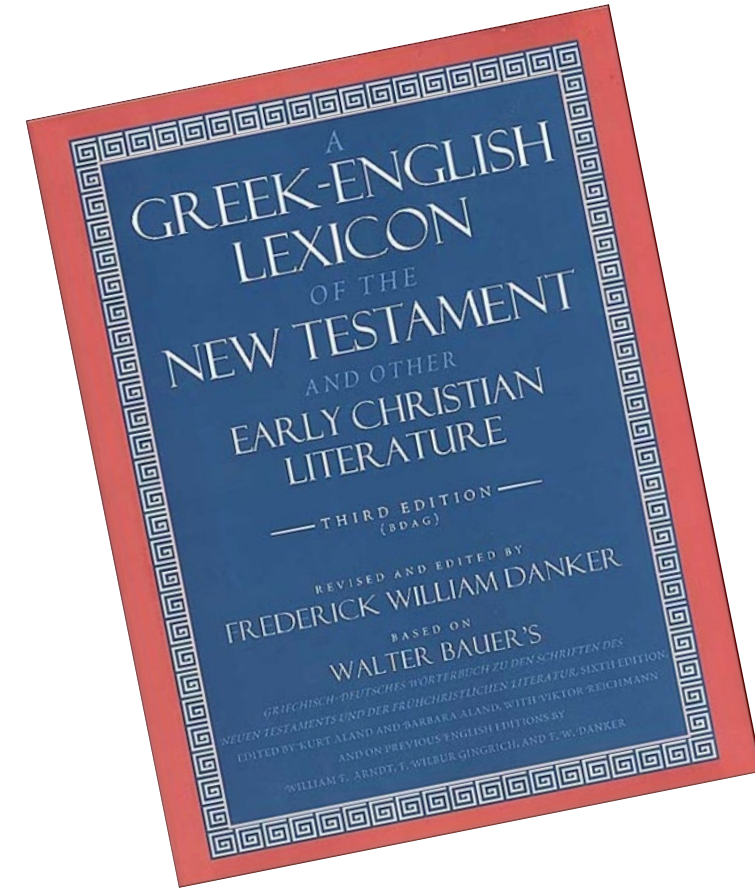
“become my fellow-imitators”

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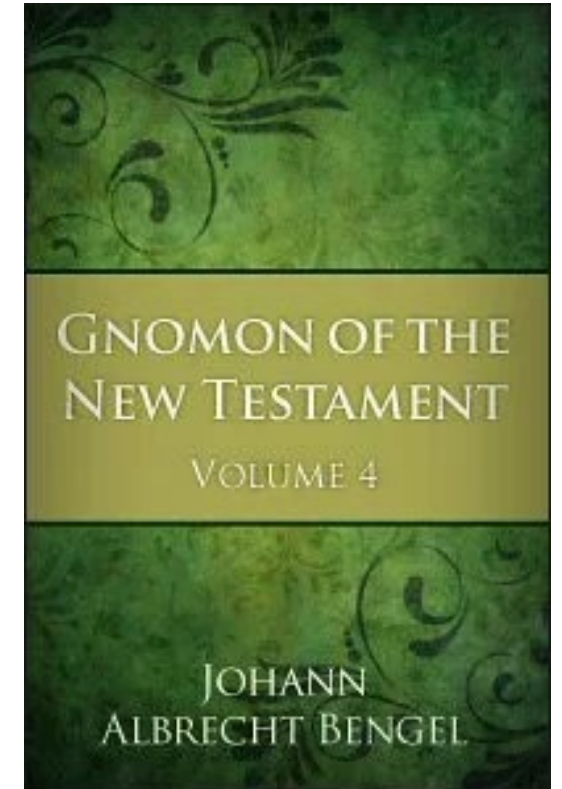
μιμητής – “imitator”

συμμιμητής (symmimētēs)  
one who joins others as an  
imitator, fellow-imitator





17. Συμμιμηταὶ, *imitators*  
[followers] together with)  
Paul himself was an  
imitator [follower] of  
Christ; the Philippians,  
therefore, were to be  
imitators [followers]  
together with him



<sup>1</sup> Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

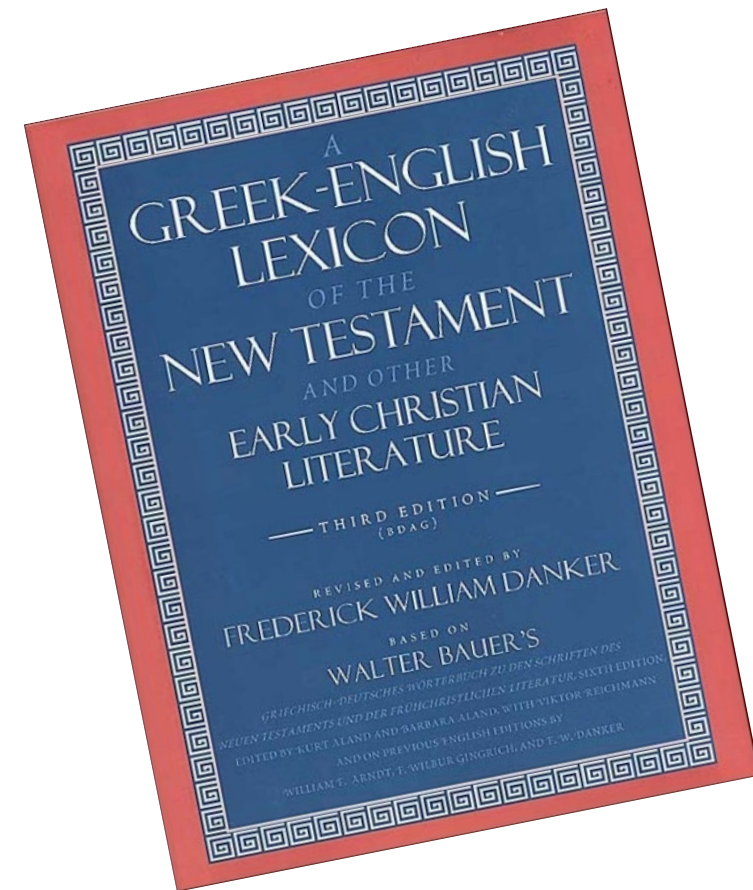
1 Corinthians 11:1 (NASB95)

<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and **observe** those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17 (NASB95)

σκοπέω (skopeo)

to pay careful attention to,  
look (out) for, notice

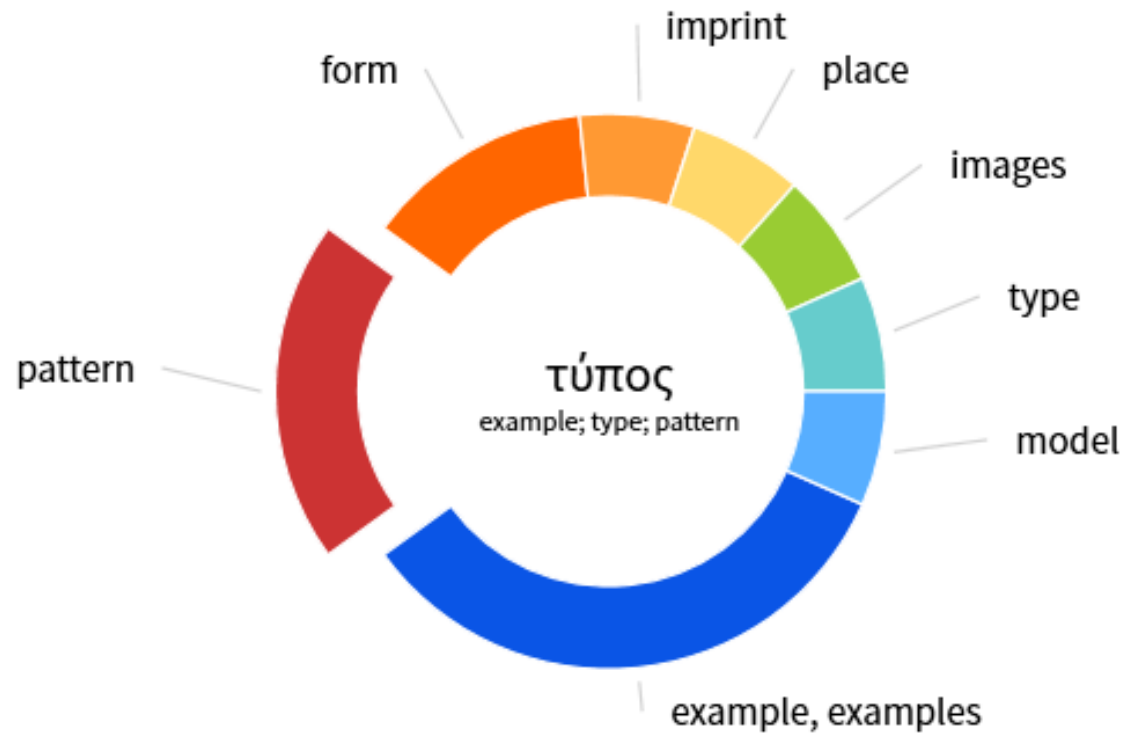


<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17 (NASB95)

# τύπος (typos)

▼ Translation NASB95



<sup>7</sup> Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7 (NASB95)

<sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9 (NASB95)



# Paul's Pattern:

1. (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. (2:17)
3. (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. (2:17)
3. (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brethren,  
that my circumstances have turned out  
for the greater progress of the gospel, <sup>13</sup>  
so that my imprisonment in the cause of  
Christ has become well known  
throughout the whole praetorian guard  
and to everyone else,

<sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren,  
trusting in the Lord because of my  
imprisonment, have far more courage to  
speak the word of God without fear.

Philippians 1:12–14 (NASB95)

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21 (NASB95)

# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. (2:17)
3. (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. Served **People** sacrificially, as an offering (2:17)
3. (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

<sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

Philippians 2:17 (NASB95)



# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. Served **People** sacrificially, as an offering (2:17)
3. (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. Served **People** sacrificially, as an offering (2:17)
3. **Pursued** knowing Christ (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. (4:12-13)

<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10–11 (NASB95)

Philippians 3:12-14

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

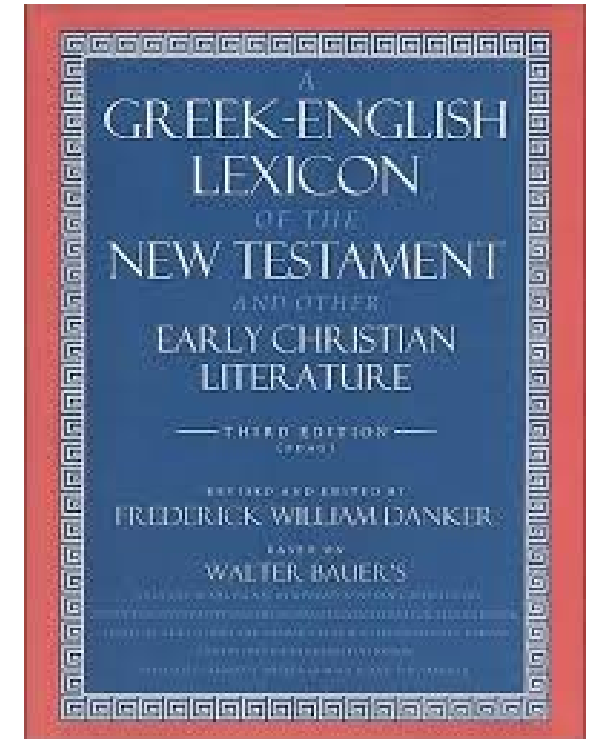
<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:12–14 (NASB95)

# διώκω (*diōkō*)

① to move rapidly and decisively toward an objective, hasten, run,

press on

② to harass someone, esp. because of beliefs, persecute



# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. Served **People** sacrificially, as an offering (2:17)
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4. (4:12-13)



# Paul's Pattern:

1. **Prioritized** the Gospel (1:12-14, 1:21)
2. Served **People** sacrificially, as an offering (2:17)
3. **Pursued** knowing Christ (3:10-11, 12-14)
4. Had **Perspective** on his circumstances (4:12-13)

<sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:12–13 (NASB95)

# Remember Who You Are

1. The Example (3:17)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:18-19)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)

# Remember Who You Are

1. The Example (3:17)
2. The Enemies (3:18-19)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20-21)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)

<sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you,  
and now tell you even weeping, that **they are**  
**enemies** of the cross of Christ,

<sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is  
their appetite, and whose glory is in their  
shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95)

Their Contrast (3:19):

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1. Their end is destruction

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Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95)



# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their **end** is destruction

τέλος (*telos*) – *End, Conclusion, Goal*

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τελειόω (*teleioō*), *to bring to completion, accomplish, fulfill, make perfect;*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained it or **have** already **become perfect**, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12 (NASB95)

*τέλος (telos) – end, conclusion, goal*

*τελειόω (teleioō), to bring to completion,  
accomplish, fulfill, make perfect;*

*τέλειος (teleios) - complete, perfect;*

<sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect [*mature*], have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

Philippians 3:15 (NASB95)

τέλος (*telos*) – *end, conclusion, goal*

τελειόω (*teleioō*), *to bring to completion, accomplish, fulfill, make perfect;*

τέλειος (*teleios*) - *complete, perfect;*

Our “end” = maturity

Their end = destruction



# 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

<sup>6</sup> For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

<sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2 Thessalonians 1:6–9 (NASB95)

<sup>28</sup> in no way alarmed by your  
opponents—which is a sign of  
destruction for them, but of salvation for  
you, and that too, from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you  
it has been granted for Christ's sake, not  
only to believe in Him, but also to suffer  
for His sake,

Philippians 1:28–29 (NASB95)

# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction

# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)

<sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you,  
and now tell you even weeping, that they are  
enemies of the cross of Christ,  
<sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, **whose god is  
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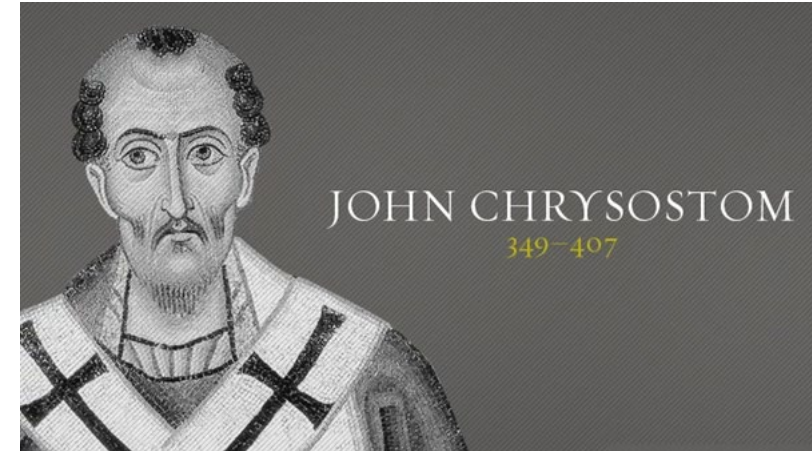
Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95)

<sup>18</sup> For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ **but of their own appetites**; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Romans 16:18 (NASB95)



Your belly is given to you so that you may nourish it, not so that it may burst. Your body is given you that you may rule it, not so that you may have it as a mistress. It is given that it may serve you for the nourishment of the other members, not so that you may serve it. Do not exceed these bounds. The sea in flood does not so much harm to the boundaries as our belly does to our bodies and our souls.  
HOMILY ON PHILIPPIANS 14.3.18–21.



Our God = the one, true God

Their god = their own appetites

<sup>3</sup> for we are the true circumcision, who  
worship in the Spirit of God and glory in  
Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the  
flesh,

Philippians 3:3 (NASB95)

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:16–17 (NASB95)

<sup>3</sup> for we are the true circumcision, who  
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Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the  
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Philippians 3:3 (NASB95)

<sup>3</sup> for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Philippians 3:3 (NASB95)

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2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)

# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their shame



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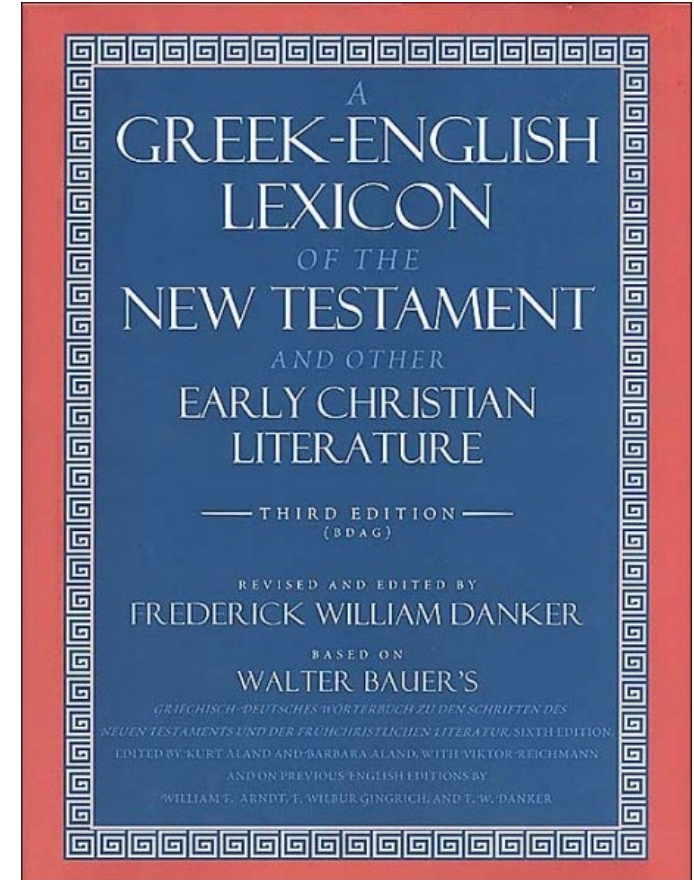
Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95)

# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their **shame**

# αἰσχύνη (aischynē)

- ① a sensitivity respecting possibility of dishonor, modesty, shame
- ② an experience of ignominy that comes to someone, shame, disgrace
- ③ commission of someth. shameful, **a shameful deed**



21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of **which you are now ashamed**? For the outcome of those things is death.

Romans 6:21 (NASB95)

Our glory = in Christ Jesus

Their glory = their shame

# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their **shame**

## Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their shame
4. They set their minds on earthly things

<sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you,  
and now tell you even weeping, that they are  
enemies of the cross of Christ,  
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Philippians 3:18–19 (NASB95)



# Their Contrast (3:19):

1. Their end is destruction
2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their shame
4. They **set their minds** on earthly things

<sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, **have this attitude**; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

Philippians 3:15 (NASB95)

Our mindset = knowing Christ

Their mindset = earthly things

# Their Contrast (3:19):

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2. Their god is their appetite (“belly”)
3. They glory in their shame
4. They set their minds on earthly things

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# Remember Who You Are

1. The Example (3:17)
2. The Enemies (3:18-19)
3. The Encouragement (3:20-21)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)



<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

# The Encouragement

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- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship **is** in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

# The Encouragement

- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven

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- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven
- Our Savior is coming back to rule

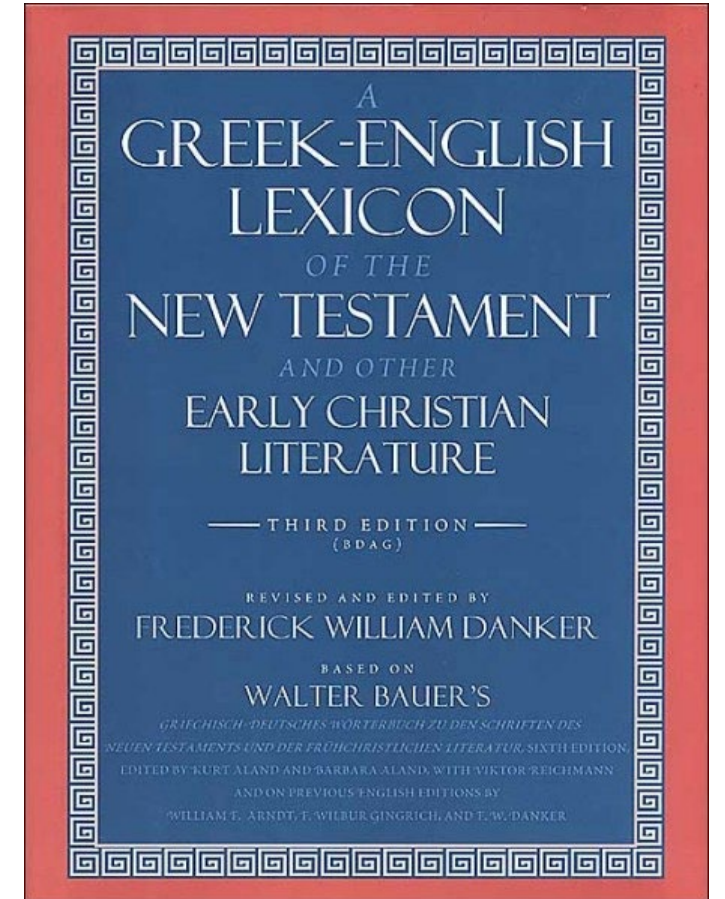
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Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

κύριος (kyrios)

① one who is in charge by virtue of possession, owner

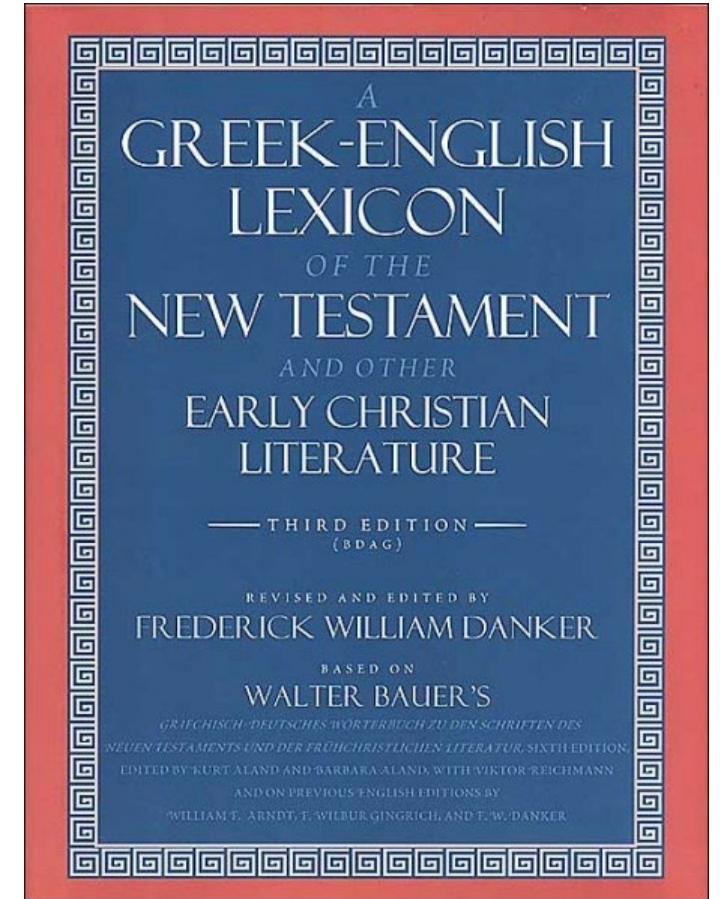
② one who is in a position of authority, lord, master





# κύριος (kyrios)

- ① one who is in charge by virtue of possession, owner
- ② one who is in a position of authority, lord, master



<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9–11 (NASB95)

# The Encouragement

- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven
- Our Savior is coming back to rule

# The Encouragement

- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven
- Our Savior is coming back to rule
- Our Savior will transform our bodies

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

<sup>4</sup> For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 5:4 (NASB95)

# The Encouragement

- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven
- Our Savior is coming back to rule
- Our Savior will transform our bodies

# The Encouragement

- Our present identity and citizenship is in heaven
- Our Savior is coming back to rule
- Our Savior will transform our bodies
- Our Savior has awesome power



<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, **by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

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# Remember Who You Are

1. The Example (3:17)
2. The Enemies (3:18-19)
3. The Encouragement (3:20-21)
4. The Exhortation (4:1)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way **stand firm in the Lord**, my beloved.

Philippians 4:1 (NASB95)

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit**, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 1:27 (NASB95)

# Remember Who You Are

1. The Example (3:17)
2. The Enemies (3:18-19)
3. The Encouragement (3:20-21)
4. The Exhortation (4:1)

2 Peter 1:5-9

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,



<sup>7</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, **having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

2 Peter 1:5–9 (NASB95)

# Application:

*Recognizing your identity in Christ, stand firm and model your behavior after mentors who are striving to know Christ and to grow in holiness themselves.*