

Archetypes

(Philippians 3:12-4:1) Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brother, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. Therefore, all who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you also. In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained. Join in imitating me, brothers, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For I have often told you and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself. So then, in this way, my dearly loved brothers, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

PURSUE

Sincere followers of Christ pursue the prize of God's heavenly call.

1. Looking Forward

- A. It's not good to dwell on the mistakes of the past.
- B. It's not good to dwell on the successes of the past.
- C. What's important is how we "finish" the race.

(12-14) Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

2. Growing Tall

(15-16) All who are mature should think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you also. In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have attained.

- A. Involves "thinking" a certain way.
- B. Involves "living" a certain way.

3. Standing Firm

(3:17-4:1) Join in imitating me, brothers, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For I have often told you and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself. So then, in this way, my dearly loved brothers, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.

A. Those who DO NOT stand tall:

(18) "live as enemies of the cross of Christ."

(19) "They are focused on earthly things."

B. Those who DO stand tall:

* Live like Jesus is coming back next Sunday (20)

* Live like a mentor (two meanings) (17)