

MAR 14 2010

Preposition, part 9: The Joy of Standing Fast (Philippians 3:17–4:7)

→ Philippians 3:17–4:7

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

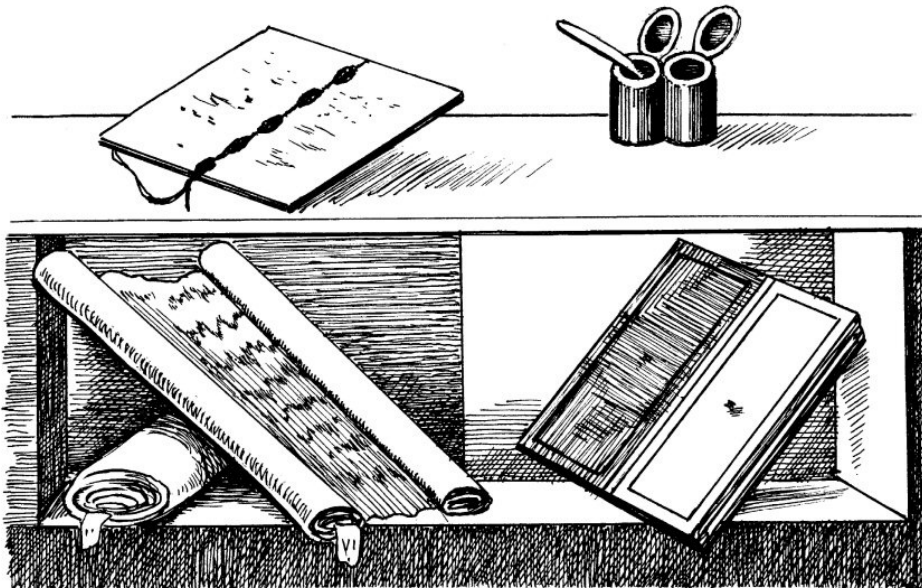
and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

→ Message Notes: Wait for the Savior, 3:17-20

By following good examples, 17

By not following appetites, 18-20

- our appetites war against God's desires for us
- our appetites will make us God's enemies if we indulge them.
- our appetites will ultimately destroy us
- our appetites pervert our sense of right and wrong
- our appetites subvert our focus
- our appetites betray our citizenship



→ Books and parchment

Originally writing was done on potsherds (ostraca) or papyrus. In order to copy down longer texts, papyrus pieces or leather strips were glued to each other and rolled up. Especially valuable texts were written on parchment, a writing surface of much more carefully prepared leather. Wooden tablets covered with wax were used for notes. The letters on pressed into the wax could easily be wiped away, and the "note book" could be used again. In contrast, the bound book is an invention of the 1st century CE; it took some time before it circulated and was widely used.

Eccles 12:12; Matt 1:1; Mark 12:26; Luke 3:4; 4:17; John 20:30; 21:25; Acts 19:19; Gal 3:10; Phil 4:3; 2 Tim 4:13; Heb 9:19; Rev 1:11; 3:5; 5:1–2

→ **Jeremiah 2:19**

Your own wickedness will correct you,
And your backslidings will rebuke you.
Know therefore and see that *it is* an
evil and bitter *thing*
That you have forsaken the Lord your
God,
And the fear of Me *is* not in you,”
Says the Lord God of hosts.

→ **Message Note: Conform to the Savior, 3:21-4:1**

He will transform us eventually

Therefore Find out what it's there for, 4:1

Since He will transform us eventually, we may as well get a head start and begin the process. How?

- by standing fast
- by waiting for the Savior

→ **Message Notes: Live for the Savior, 4:2-6**

- Be a pattern of Christ-mindedness
- Be a pattern of gentleness

- Be a pattern of faithfulness
- Be a pattern of prayerfulness
- Be a pattern of peacefulness
- Be a pattern of joyfulness

→ **Matthew 24:42-44 NLT**

So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

→ **Warnings & Exhortations**

There are many called by Christ's name who are enemies to Christ's cross, and the design and intention of it. Their walk is a surer evidence what they are than their profession. By *their fruits you shall know them*, Mt. 7:20. The apostle warns people against such, (1.) Very frequently: *I have told you often*. We so little heed the warnings given us that we have need to have them repeated. *To write the same things is safe*, v. 1. (2.) Feelingly and affectionately: *I now tell you weeping*. Paul was upon proper occasions a weeping preacher, as Jeremiah was a weeping prophet. Observe, An old sermon may be preached with new affections; what we say often we may

say again, if we say it affectionately, and are ourselves under the power of it.

2. He gives us the characters of those who were the enemies of the cross of Christ. (1.) Whose God is their belly. They minded nothing but their sensual appetites. A wretched idol it is, and a scandal for any, but especially for Christians, to sacrifice the favour of God, the peace of their conscience, and their eternal happiness to it. Gluttons and drunkards make a god of their belly, and all their care is to please it and make provision for it. The same observance which good people give to God epicures give to their appetites. Of such he says, *They serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own bellies*, Rom. 16:18.

Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, Php 3:17–21. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996.

→ **Euodia and Syntyche**

Two women, **Euodia** and **Syntyche**, did not live up to the meanings of their names. “Euodia” means a “prosperous journey.” “Syntyche” means a “pleasant acquaintance.” Since Paul pleaded with these two **to agree with each other in the Lord**, it seems that they were causing dissension in the assembly. This helps explain Paul's earlier plea for unity (2:1-4).

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (V 2, p 663). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

→ **Who is the Loyal Yokefellow?**

The exact identity of Paul's **loyal yokefellow** is not known. Some say “yokefellow” (*syzygus*) is a proper name. Paul knew he could count on him to work with the women and bring them back to fellowship with each other and with the Lord. **Clement** and other **fellow workers** had also contended for the gospel with these women. (This is more likely than supposing the words “along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers” go with “help,” as though Paul were enlisting Clement and others to help Syzygus unite the women.)

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (V 2, p 663). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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ALSO	BELOVED	BODY				
BRETHREN	CHRIST	EVEN				
IMPLORE	LORD	MIND				

→ **Philippians 3:17–4:7**