

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 19-20, 2002

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"The Heavenly Processional"

Philippians 3:17-4:1

What can we learn about the heavenly processional from Philippians 3:17-4:1?

We are commanded to follow those who by the way they are living demonstrate they are in the heavenly procession.

In Philippians 3:17 we see people following one another as in a procession.

There are three separate groups in this heavenly processional.

The first group in this procession is referred to as "us" and would include Paul and most likely his Missionary associates Epaphroditus and Timothy.

The second group in this procession is "those who walk according to the pattern you have in us" (Philippians 3:17).

Paul commanded all the professing believers at Philippi to observe those living in the very same way as Paul and his associates.

The word "observe" (SKOPEO) conveys the idea of close observation, or fixed attention.

What would be some of the characteristics that we should be looking for in the lives of those following closely the pattern of Paul and his associates?

Those following the pattern of Paul and his associates will have exercised faith in Christ and have entered in a personal relationship with Him (Philippians 3:7-8).

Those following the pattern of Paul and his associates will confirm their faith by wanting to get to know Christ better (Philippians 3:8-11).

Those following the pattern of Paul and his associates will be dissatisfied, directed, and disciplined (Philippians 3:12-16).

In order to fulfill Paul's command to observe those who were following the pattern of Paul and his associates requires a close relationship with the church family (Hebrews 13:17).

The third group in the procession are professing Christians at Philippi who responded to the commands of Paul "to follow" and "to observe."

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Are we so far removed from the processional and those who are pressing forward toward the goal of the resurrection that we look more like a bystander than a participant?