

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for November 17, 2002**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"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 (Philippians 3:17).

We learn that many professing Christians are enemies of the cross of Christ and not in the heavenly procession (Philippians 3:18-19).

The "enemies of the cross of Christ" in Philippians 3:18 are professing Christians who are not walking according to the pattern of the apostle and his associates.

The enemies of the cross of Christ focus on fleshly and earthly things rather than on spiritual and heavenly things.

We learn that those in the heavenly procession eagerly wait for the return of Christ.

The word "citizenship" (POLITEUMA) refers to a commonwealth, state, or homeland to which someone belongs.

Paul had a readiness to go home through death but more than a readiness to go home through death he had an eagerness to be taken home.

The word translated "eagerly wait" (APEKDECKOMA) describes the Christian's persistent yearning for the coming Christ.

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When Christ comes for His church our earthly bodies will be transformed and we will finally be conformed to Christ perfectly.

The word translated "humble state" (TAPEINOSIS) points to the physical and moral weakness of our earthly bodies.

The "body of His glory" is referring to the very same kind of body that Christ now enjoys (1 Corinthians 15:47-49).

Paul's confident expectation of this ultimate transformation of the citizens of heaven is based on the power that enables Christ to bring everything under his control (Matthew 28:18).

Those in the heavenly procession eagerly wait for Christ because that is when God's redemptive purpose in conforming them to the image of His son will be complete.