

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for November 23-24, 2002**

**"The Heavenly Processional"**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1**

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

We learn that 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).

We learn that those in the heavenly procession eagerly wait for the return of Christ (Philippians 3:20-21).

We learn that those in the heavenly procession must stand firm (Philippians 4:1).

The word to "stand firm" (STEKO) is a word which was used to describe a soldier standing fast in the midst of a battle.

Based on the context of Philippians 3:17-21, Paul is calling believers to stand firm against the worldly influence of the enemies of the cross of Christ.

We have succumbed to worldly influence when we succumb to false philosophies, ideologies, values, and lifestyles that exist independent of and in opposition to God.

Loving money more than we love God is a subtle worldly influence that spiritually threatens us (1 Timothy 6:10).

Loving family more than we love God is subtle worldly influence that spiritually threatens us (Matthew 10:37).

Loving the recognition of men more than we love God is a subtle worldly influence that spiritually threatens us (Matthew 23:1-7).

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We must stand firm in the strength that is ours in Christ.

Paul's various expressions of affection for the Philippians indicates that he believed that they would continue to stand firm.

The phrase "my joy and crown" does not emphasize what they were to him but what they will be to him when Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

All those in the heavenly processional will love one another (John 13:34-35).

If you are successfully standing firm against worldly influences you will be actively seeking to draw closer to those in this fellowship who have their spiritual headlights on.