

Session 4

Dealing with Spiritual Discontentment

Phil 3

Believers can overcome spiritual discontentment...

I. By Thinking Maturely about their pursuit of Christ. (12-16)

A. Paul hadn't made it yet.

B. Pressing on

1. Reason for pressing on: Christ. (12)
2. How to press on:
3. Goal to press towards: Knowing Christ (14)
4. This is mature thinking (15-16)
 - "Mature" here and "perfect" in 12 are same word.
 - PNT, "Christian perfection "consists, stated paradoxically, in Christian imperfection, in running towards the goal¹"

II. By Imitating the example of mature believers (17-21)

1. Imperative: Join in imitating me. (17)
 - This answers the "how – practically – do I pursue Biblical maturity?"
 - Answer: You find mature believers and watch them. Then start doing what they do.
2. Avoid Earthly Minded Immaturity. (18-19)
3. Remember your true citizenship (20-21).
 - The "Italic Right" was the legal status of Philippi as a Roman city even though it was in Macedonia.

III. By Standing firm in the Lord. (1)

1. Encourage those to whom you are an example.
2. Stand firm.
3. "In the Lord."

IV. Renewing the Mind.

1. Consider the forgiving nature of God. Starting in Genesis, try to list as many examples of God forgiving sinners.
2. Consider those in scripture who sinned but continued in their walk with God. How many can you think of? What is the overall testimony of scripture here? To quit or to keep going?
3. Imitation happens by being around another person enough that we begin to act like them. Who are you around that you imitate? (Hint: don't only consider people you know; people/characters in our entertainments are possibilities too)
4. In what ways does your Earthly citizenship take priority over your heavenly citizenship?

¹ G. Walter Hansen, [*The Letter to the Philippians*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 258.