

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, December 27, 2020



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

In this week's passage, Paul invites the Philippians to imitate him and others faithful examples, warns them to avoid enemies of the cross, reminds them of their eternal home, and encourages them to stand firm in the Lord.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- Why do we need godly examples to imitate? How do we know who we should imitate? Are you living as an example for others to follow? Is it clear by your lifestyle that you treasure Christ? Are you building relationships with other believers that are strong where you are weak (and vice versa) for the purpose of discipleship?
- Who are the enemies that Paul warns the Philippians about (verse 18)? Why does he tell them "with tears"? Explain what he means by the following descriptions (verse 19) and how we can avoid imitating these characteristics.
 - *Their end is destruction*
 - *Their god is their belly*
 - *They glory in their shame*
 - *Their minds are set on earthly things*
- How does the reality of our heavenly citizenship influence how we live? Is your life characterized by an eager anticipation (hope) of Christ's return?
- What can we expect when Christ returns? What does it mean that Jesus will "transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body" (glorification)? How will he accomplish this?
- Why is it necessary for Paul to remind the Philippians (and us) to "stand firm," and how does it relate to our joy (4:1)?