

Affirmations  
Phil.3:17-21  
11-14-2010

Paul says in Phil.4:1b "...that is how you should stand firm in the Lord..." in reference to what he had previously said in 3:17-21. So what did Paul say about the 'how to' of standing firm in the Lord?

- Follow examples of successful lives
  1. Follow Jesus life (1Cor.11:1)
  2. Follow Paul's life (Phil.4:9)
  3. Take note of those who are living the pattern (Rm.12:1-2; 2Tim.1:13-14)

So what do these examples look like? What examples of lives being lived successfully according to God's standard do we see being portrayed for us in scripture?

To view these lives correctly may require special vision. From the vantage point of the world Jesus and Paul and all the rest likely look dead. To the lost they might just look like losers. Lives wasted in pursuit of foolish fantasies. Even Paul suggested this view would be correct if one event were not true – the resurrection from the dead. (1Cor.15:12-20) The two side of the coin are resurrection and no resurrection each draw different conclusions to what is important in life (this one).

Paul's conclusion and his life's example is to live in anticipation of Jesus returning. Live as a citizen of Heaven, citizens who are waiting for their King. This is not a passive wait but an active one. So what is active waiting? I would ask you to look back to Paul's words in Phil.3:17-21 and look for what Paul's drive was.

We all are driven by, gain our energy, our motivations from what is important to us. We pursue what we value.

Look for the markers that indicate what Paul valued. What I see Paul valuing is people. His heart was consumed with concern for people and their destiny. Where people were heading was what Paul cared about. He loved people with the same love Jesus and His Father demonstrated.

With tears in his eyes Paul wept over the loss for people who lived as enemies of the cross. And with great excitement he strove for those who lived as children of the cross. Why? Because Paul understood something deeper than our mortal lives was of greater value than just this brief existence. (Col.3:1-3) (Peter also 1Pet.1:3-4)

Being citizens of heaven is what is valuable in this life because a person has crossed over from death to life which is a crossing over that can only be bridged while in this life in the flesh. (Jn.5:24) David understood and left us words to guide our hearts. Psl.73:24-26

Since God is supreme and Heaven His home and ours and true value is found in eternity our waiting is active in doing what maintains our citizenship. Our citizenship is maintained by doing what things God is passionate about. This leaves us with this question: what is God passionate about? The answer; people are His passion. Rescuing the lost and maintaining the security of the redeemed.

Pray to the Lord of the harvest for the fields are yet ripe. (Mat.9:35-38) Active waiting is doing what matters for eternity, your own and the eternity of those to whom you have an ability to influence towards their own salvation and the maintaining of their citizenship. What matters the most to you? What is the treasure of your own heart?