



Big Idea: Standing firm in Christ is a matter of perspective.

- v. 4:1 – Paul is summarizing the previous verses here with a clear point of application.
 - This text is God's recipe for standing firm in the Lord.
 - Standing firm in Christ is largely a matter of having the right **Perspective** in life.

Perspective #1: Focus on your new **Identify in Christ (v. 16).**

- Even though we have inherited God's kingdom, we are still tempted to live for the fleeting glories of the world.
- v. 16 – *"Only let us live up to what we have already attained."*
- Charles H. Spurgeon – "A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul."

Perspective #2: Focus on mature **Followers of Christ (v. 17-19).**

- **"Join with others..."**
 - Growing in Christ is something that God demands that we do **Together** with other believers.
- **"...in following..."**
 - To be a Christian is, at its core, to be a follower.
- **"...my example..."**
 - All of us need good, godly examples to embrace and emulate (1 Corinthians 11:1).
 - *Would others be more like Christ if they were more like you?*

-- ***“Take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.”***

-- Our **Heroes** and **Role Models** ought to be mature followers of Jesus Christ.

-- ***“For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”***

-- Paul is imploring the church to be very careful who they choose to follow because this world is filled with destructive influences.

-- **Five Characteristics of False Teachers (v. 18-19)**

1.) *“...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ...”*

-- Before you choose to be influenced by anyone, find out what he/she believes about the **Cross** of Jesus Christ.

2.) *“Their destiny is destruction...”*

-- Beware of those live for goals that have no eternal value.

3.) *“...their god is their stomach...”*

-- Beware of those who live by their own selfish appetites.

4.) *“...their glory is in their shame.”*

-- Beware of those who **Delight** in what God detests.

5.) *“Their mind is on earthly things.”*

-- Beware of those who have a lot to say about worldly matters but little to say about Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

3.) Perspective #3: Focus on your **Future with Christ (v. 20-21).**

-- **20 – “But our citizenship is in heaven...”**

-- Roman citizenship was the pride and joy of Philippi.

-- Here, Paul is calling them to heed a higher perspective.

-- Since this world is not our home, we should not chase after it.

-- **v. 20 – “We eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

-- Paul's eager expectation was the **Second Coming** of Christ (John 14:3, Acts 1:11).

- To understand the promise of heaven is to wait earnestly and eagerly to be with the Lord.
- **v. 21 – “...who...will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”**
 - If we are in Christ, our citizenship is in heaven, and one day our physical bodies will be heavenly as well.
 - This a transformation so magnificent and so complete, that is simply impossible to fathom from human perspective.
- **v. 4:1 – “That is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!”**
 - We stand firm in the Lord by living each day with an **Eternal** perspective.

Application

- 1.) Whatever matters most in **Heaven** ought to matter most today.
- 2.) Whatever has no eternal value shouldn't be a **Priority** today.
- 3.) Whatever we do, we ought to go about it with an eye on eternity.