**Welcome to Philippians: Serving & Suffering Joyfully**

**Session 11: Make Every Effort**

**Philippians 3:12-21**

**Passionately Pursue Greater Knowledge of Christ (3:12-14)**

* humbly acknowledge you haven’t arrived (3:12a,13a)
  + I don’t know everything
  + I won’t know everything
* never lose the wonder of the Gospel (3:12b, 14b)
  + passionate pursuit (Acts 23:11)
  + forgetting (3:7-8; Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2)
  + reaching (1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Hebrews 12:1-3)
  + one thing I do (Acts 9:3-22)

***“The future goal of winning the prize captured Paul’s full attention, set him free from the tyranny of the past, and filled his present life with the incentive to press on to take hold of all that Christ had called him to be and do.” – G. Walter Hansen***

**Follow Cross-Centered, Heavenly Minded Examples (3:15-19)**

* Christian mindset (3:15a, 16; cf. 2:5)
  + mature = wholehearted devotion to Jesus’ Word and Will
* follow faithful examples (3:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
  + righteous & blameless (3:6)
* avoid patterns of pretenders & earthly minded people
  + Gnosticism (3:15b-c, 19c; cf. 2:9-11)
  + greed (3:18-19b)
    - indulgence
    - gluttony
    - shameful sexual practices

***“Christ has no body on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.” – Teresa of Avila***

**Live in Light of Your True Citizenship (3:20-21)**

* since Christians are located in Christ Jesus (1:1), His location determines the location of our citizenship
* Savior (cf. 3:19)
* Lord

***Those who share the mind of Christ confidently expect to share His victory, for we are already citizens of Heaven!***