

## “Who Do I Imitate? Who Imitates Me?”

Based on Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV) June 23, 2019

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

*Philippians 3:17 - Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.*

† **The Apostle Paul is telling the people to be “mimics”, to imitate him.**

† **Paul has focused his life on being like Christ and so should we.**

† **I need to be aware of others who imitate Christ in their lives.**

*Philippians 3:18-19*

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

*19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.*

† **There were people in the Philippian church who claimed with their mouths to be believers, to be Christian, but they did not show it in their actions.**

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† **Their time and efforts went to seeking earthly pleasures and satisfying their own physical desires instead of seeking God’s pleasures and satisfying God’s desires for them.**

*Philippians 3:20-21*

*20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

*21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

† **When I accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and imitate, or mimic, him, I am a citizen of heaven even though I am living on earth.**

† **I live and work on earth, yet I am still a citizen of heaven.**

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† **As a citizen of heaven, I am expected to promote the interests of God on earth and lead my life worthy of being a citizen of heaven.**

**Applying Today’s Message to My Life:**

† Who is someone who, in some area of my life, I try and imitate?

† Who is someone I see as an imitator of Christ?

† What kind of Christian would someone turn out to be if they imitated me?

† What “earthly things” do I desire over God’s desires for me?

† What is one way I can more closely imitate or mimic Jesus Christ in my life this week?