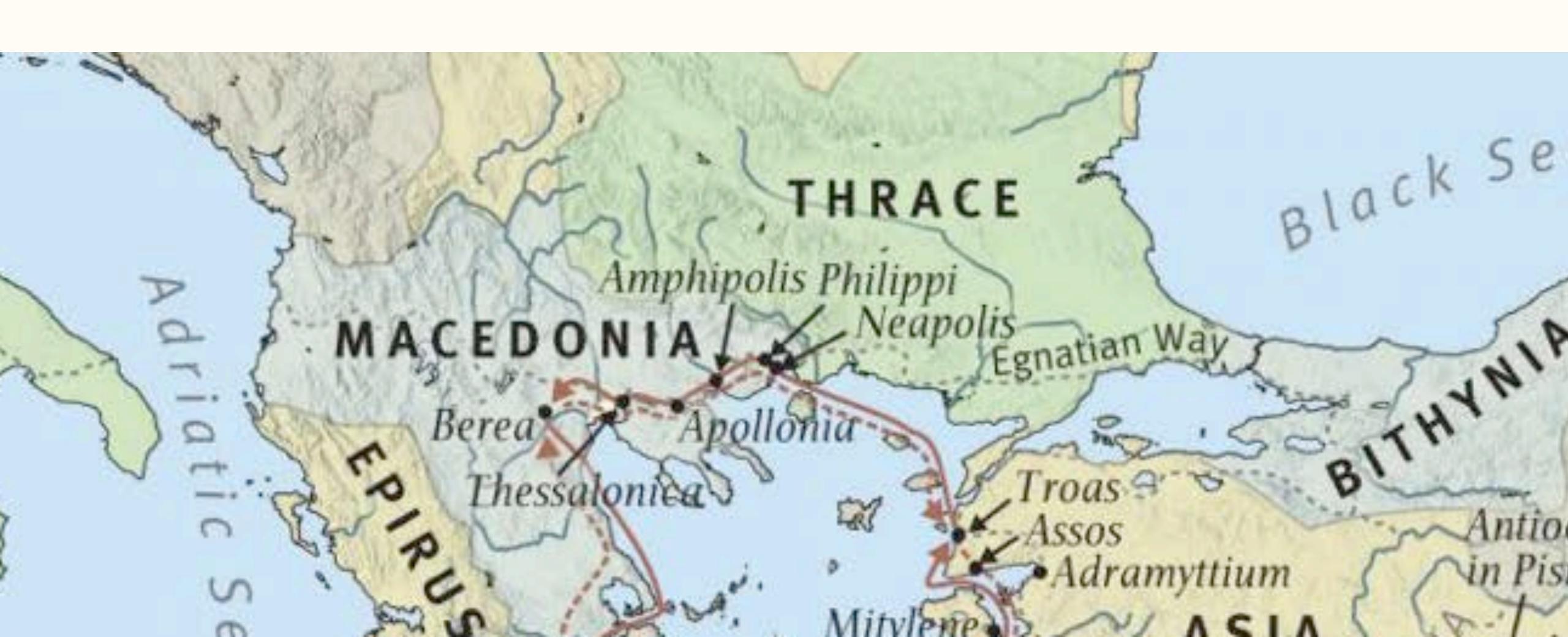
Philippians Series
Lesson #079
July 18, 2024

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# Be Imitators Philippians 3:17–21



In Php. 3 the focus is on standing firm against error.

#### Two sources:

- 1. The Judaizers: added human works to justification and/or spiritual growth (sanctification).
- 2. The enemies of the cross of Christ, Php. 3:17ff

Php. 3:15, "Therefore let us, as many as are mature, <u>have</u> this mind; and if in anything <u>you think</u> otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Php. 3:16, "Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind."

φρονέω *phroneō* 1 plur pres act subjunctive [imperatival] to be wise, to think

φρονέω phroneō 2 plur pres act indicative to be wise, to think

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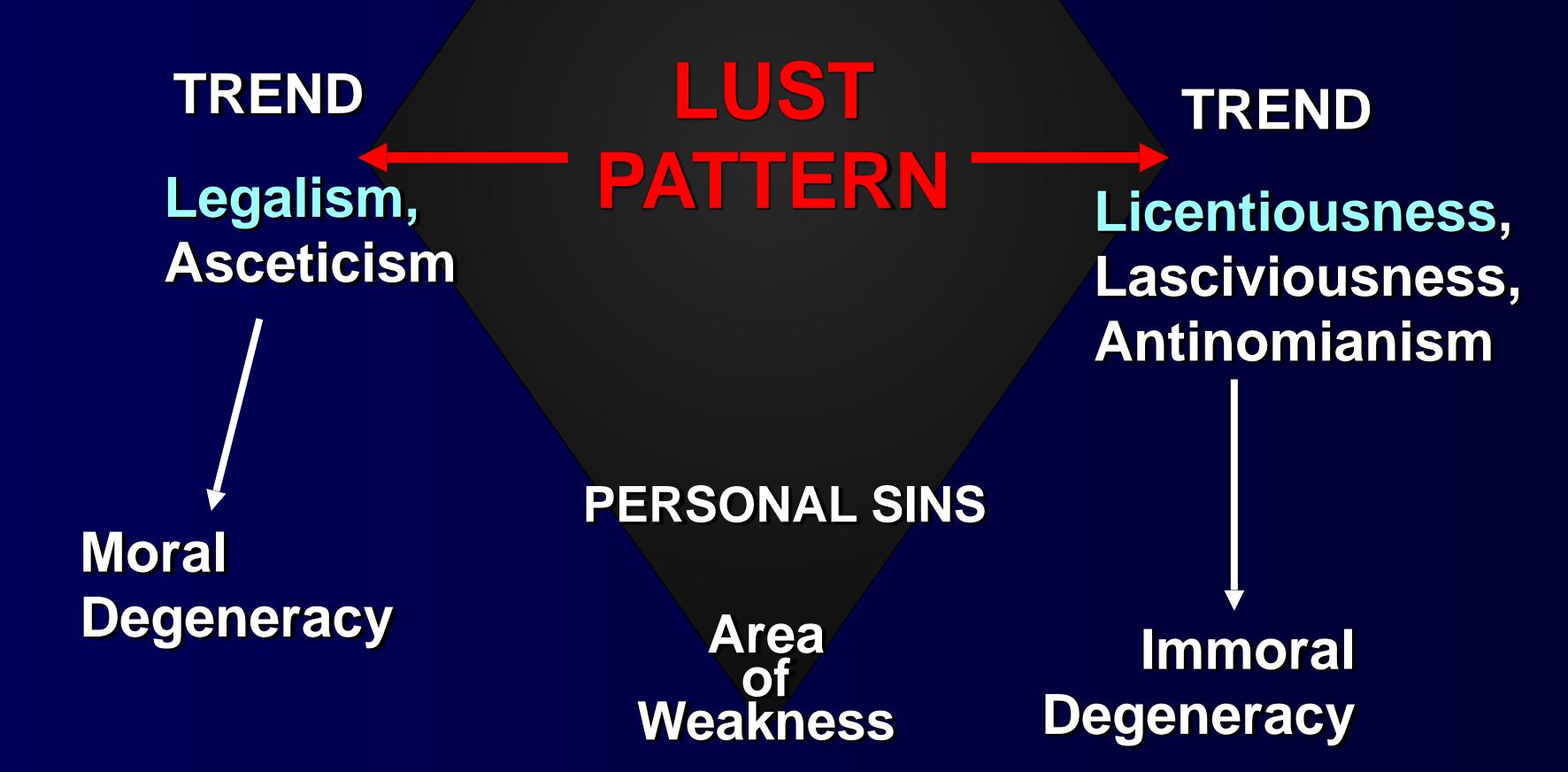
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φρονέω phroneō 2 plur pres act indicative to be wise, to think

στοιχέω stoicheō pres act infin to walk in line

THE SIN NATURE "the flesh"

Area of Strength
HUMAN GOOD



Php. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Php. 3:18, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Php. 3:19, "whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

Php. 3:20, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Php. 3:21, "who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

Php. 3:8, "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as dung, that I may gain Christ

Php. 3:9, "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;"

Php. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

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Php. 3:17 Follow Paul's walk, not the walk of the many, the enemies of the Cross.

Verse 17 focuses on imitating Paul's walk

Php. 3:18–19 describes the licentiousness of the libertines who are described as enemies of the Cross.

Verse 18 describes the walk of the many as enemies of the Cross.

Verse 19 describes the consequences and the characteristics.

\*\*Issue here: believers or unbelievers, and they are believers.

Php. 3:20–21 Paul gives the reason for the challenge to imitate him, our citizenship is now in Heaven.

Php. 3:20 Our heavenly orientation: we focus on the coming of the Savior.

Php. 3:21 The end result: transformation of our physical body to a resurrection body.

Php. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." [NKJV]

Php. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." [NKJV]

Php. 1:8, "For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ."

Php. 1:12, "But I want you to know, <u>brethren</u>, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,"

Php. 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." [NKJV]

συμμιμητής summimētēs
masc plur nom
joint-imitator
\*Remember "same
rule" "same mind"

## Summary of the teaching on imitation

1. Paul has already set Christ as the primary example for all believers.

Php. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,"

2. Paul states in many ways that Christ is the ultimate example.

1 Cor. 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

γίνομαι ginomai
2 plur pres middle
imperative
to become something
you were not before,
be, be born, be
created

μιμητής mimētēs masc plur nom imitator

2. Paul states in many ways that Christ is the ultimate example.

1 Cor. 11:1, "Become imitators of me, just as I also imitate Christ."

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3. Context indicates that Paul has been emphasizing running the race for the prize; i.e., pressing and pushing forward to do our best until the very end. Paul is not setting himself apart, it is "we" and "us" and "y'all."

Php. 3:14, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Php. 3:15, "Therefore <u>let US</u>, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Php. 3:16, "Nevertheless, to the degree that WE have already attained, let US walk by the same rule, let US be of the same mind." [NKJV]

4. These believers are dealing with legalists on the one hand, and licentious, carnal believers on the other, and they need a concrete example of whose example to follow.

5. Previously Paul had also set forth Timothy and Epaphroditus as examples to follow. (Php. 2:19–30)

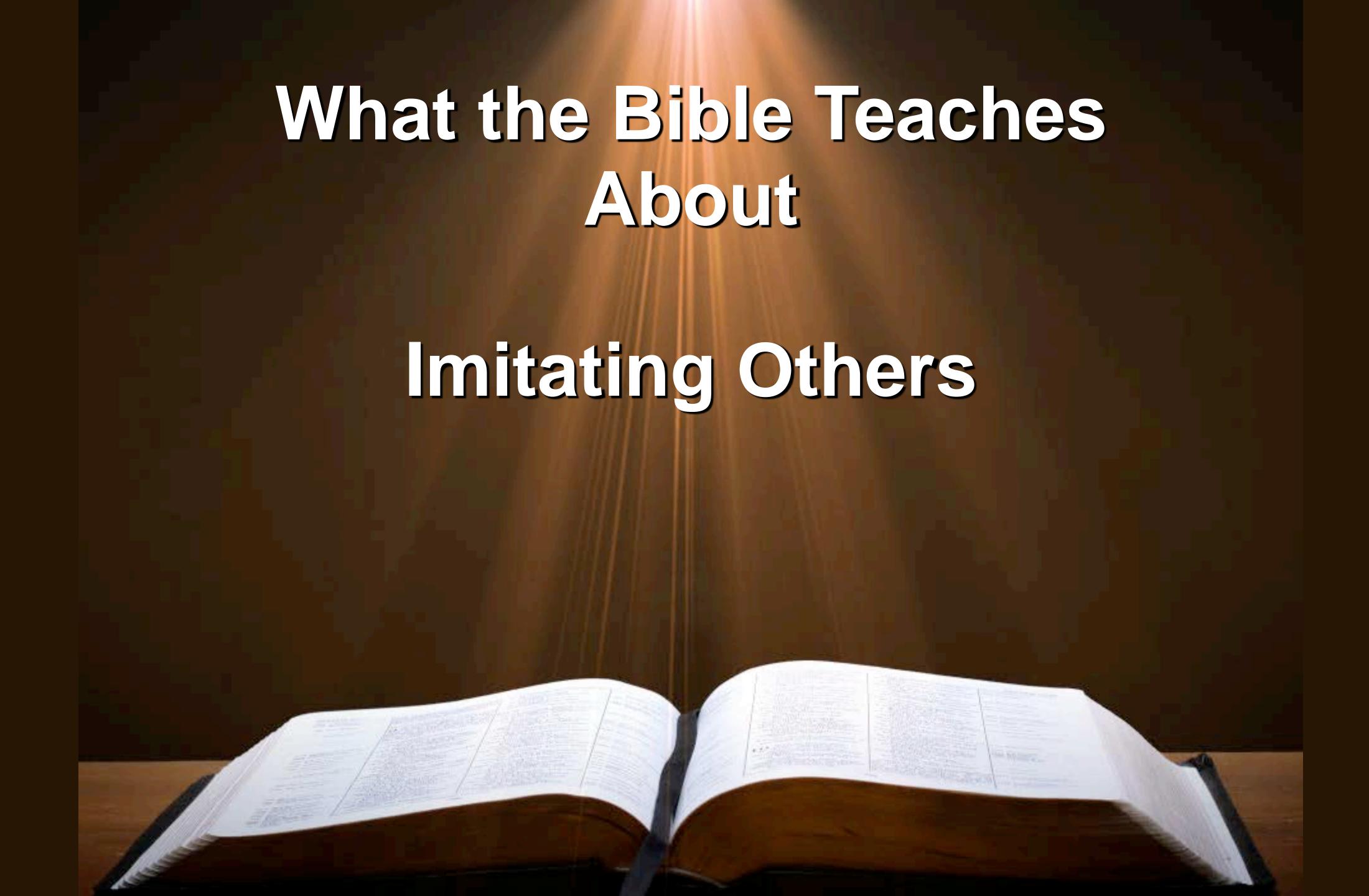
Paul himself was the example earlier in Php. 1:12–26 as Paul described how he was handling the adversity of being in house arrest in Rome.

#### Key verses

- 1 Cor. 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
- 1 Cor. 4:16, "Therefore I urge you, imitate me."
- 1 Cor. 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

#### **Key verses**

- 1 Thess. 1:6, "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,"
- 2 Thess. 3:7, "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;"
- 2 Thess. 3:9, "not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us."
- Eph. 5:1, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children."



#### 1. The key word:

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μιμέομαι (mimeomai), imitate, follow;
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μιμητής (mimētēs) imitator;

συμμητής ( $symmim\bar{e}t\bar{e}s$ ), fellow-imitator.

In the New Testament the word always has a positive sense.

Used in the epistles.

Jesus never commanded His disciples to follow Him using these words.

#### 2. Key Verses in Chronological Order

Be Imitators (followers) of us and the Lord

1 Thess. 1:6, "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,"

- 1 Thess. 1:2, "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
- 1 Thess. 1:3, "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
- 1 Thess. 1:4, "knowing, beloved brethren, y'alls appointment by God.
- 1 Thess. 1:5, "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
- 1 Thess. 1:6, "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,"

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#### 2. Key Verses in Chronological Order

Imitators of the Churches in Judea

1 Thess. 2:14, "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,"

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## 2. Key Verses in Chronological Order

- 2 Thess. 3:7, "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;
- 2 Thess. 3:8, "nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,
- 2 Thess. 3:9, "not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us."