

21 April 2024 MACC Digging Deeper  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Elder Rick Noonan

#### Day 1

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help. As you dig deeper into His word this week, consider using a journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. In verse 17, Paul urges the Philippians to imitate him as he imitates Christ. What does it mean for you to imitate Christ? How does this relate to your spiritual growth and maturity in your faith in Jesus?

#### Day2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Again, re-read Philippians 3:17-4:1. When it comes to spiritual growth and maturity in Christ, how should we cultivate a life more like Jesus in our daily lives? What should we be doing every day and every week? Just as Paul encouraged the Philippians to imitate him as he imitates Christ, we can seek out mentors and role models who can help teach, guide, and encourage us in our spiritual journey to be more like Jesus. We can also invest in mentoring others and discipling them in the ways of Christ. Have you considered discipling someone, or being disciplined by one of our ministry leaders?

#### Day3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with whom you haven't spoken to in a long time? Send them a text, give them a call, and ask them how they are doing and what you can do for them. Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. How does the promise of Christ's return, v20-21, encourage us to invest our time, energy, and resources in developing our faith and remaining confident in the face of trials and difficulties? What challenges or temptations might threaten our ability to stand firm in our faith? What actions can we take to overcome them?

#### Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Write everything down in your journal for reflection and study. Philippians 3:17-4:1. In Paul's description in verse 18, who are the "enemies of the cross of Christ"? What are some behaviors or attitudes that characterize those who are enemies of the cross, as outlined in verse 19? In what ways do these expressions of worldly priorities conflict with the values and teachings of Jesus Christ?

#### Day 5

Pray for others in your life. Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, and joy. One last time, read Philippians 3:17-4:1. Paul expresses deep sorrow and over the fate of those who are enemies of the cross. How does this attitude of compassion and concern challenge us in our interactions with others? How does keeping an eternal perspective help us resist the temptation to prioritize temporary pleasures and pursuits over our eternal destiny? What can we be doing every day to maintain a focus on heavenly priorities rather than being consumed by the concerns of this world?