

Text: Philippians 3:12–21

Call to Worship: Psalm 28

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:3–11

Theme: Always be following a mature believer.

**Introduction:**

God has not designed the Christian life to be a solo mission. He has designed an entire organization, a body, with the function of glorifying God by healthy growth through edification and evangelism. Part of that edification is for mature believers to lead the less mature believers. Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” Also see verses 17 and 24. You must always be following a mature believer.

**I. Christian Leaders Are Not Perfect** vv.12-13

**A. They Recognize Their Imperfection** v.12

1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:9

**1. Humility is a characteristic of godly leaders.**

Consider what is said about Christ in Philippians 2:1-11.

**2. Humility is a characteristic of all believers.**

James 4:6–10; 1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34; Luke 18:1–8 [Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector]; Luke 14:7–11 [Parable of Wedding Feast]

**B. They Reject Imperfect Priorities** v.13

**1. Repenting of Sin**

See 1 John 1:9. Repentance has always been part of the gospel. Mark 1:4 [John the Baptist]; Mark 1:14–15 [Jesus]; Acts 2:38 [Peter]; Acts 20:20–21 [Paul]

**2. Leaving one’s former life**

Philippians 3:7–8 [Paul speaking of his Jewish confidence in the flesh]; Luke 9:57–62. See also Genesis 19:23–26 and Matthew 6:33.

**II. Christian Leaders Are Progressing** vv.13b-17

**A. They Are Pushing Toward a Goal** v.14

1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Hebrews 12:1–2

**B. They Are Pushing Others To Do the Same** vv.15-17

Hebrews 13:17

**III. Christian Leaders May Be Opponents** vv.18-21

**A. They Live As Enemies of Christ** v.18

Matthew 7:15–20

**B. They Love Earthly Cares** v.19

1 John 2:15–17

**C. Their Last Stop is Eternal Condemnation** v.19

Matthew 11:20–24

**Conclusion:**

Have you ever been somewhere and needed some directions? Even if you have an accurate map, sometimes you still have questions. A guide is not only helpful, sometimes one is necessary. While we must be careful to find a genuine believer to follow, you must always be following a mature believer.