

Compass



BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
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PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21 NKJV

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 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: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT

Think for a moment about your favorite trip where you visited a place for the very first time. What stood out the most? Was it the food, the clothes, the sights, or maybe even the way the people there looked or spoke? Maybe they even worshipped differently from you. Can you remember how anxious you may have felt, wondering what it would be like to live there?

All of us have had the experience of visiting someplace different. One of the challenges we faced was standing out to everyone else and maybe feeling like we didn't belong. As believers, we are called to do just that. In Philippians 3:17-21, Paul encourages believers to imitate Christ wherever they are. This may be challenging when it seems like everyone is playing by a different set of rules. Those believers were witnessing others winning by earthly standards. The non-believers were living their best lives, satisfying themselves as they saw fit. Yet, we are called to be different.

This does not mean we can never fit in, nor does it mean we won't have joy in this life. Rather, we should always be mindful of our motivation. For example, is our desire for status or wealth for ourselves, or does it bring honor to God and serve others? This is something we will keep seeking God for clarity and direction. After all, perhaps God had moved us in place for something bigger than we know.

WHERE DO I BEST FIT IN?

In verse 18, we are reminded that ultimately “our citizenship is in heaven”. In stating so, Paul reminded those believers and us that our heaven is not here on earth, and that our focus needs to be on the matters that are heavenly in nature. We should be encouraged that no matter where we go, God is with us always... and that's enough!



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

MAY 3, 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

GRACE BEYOND BORDERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

JONAH 1:1–3;
3:1–5; 4:6–11

MAIN THOUGHT

Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?
JONAH 4:10-11 (KJV)

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, please grant me peace no matter where you send me and help me to keep my desires on you and your people. Amen.