

Marinating in God's Word: Philippians 3:17-4:9

Funny how ancient wisdom about the Christian life can be so relevant for Christians in 2018! But so it is. It's a wisdom that addresses faith in real life.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Some of the new Christians had been shaped by the Greek philosophy, Epicureanism, which counted satisfying earthly appetites as our highest purpose – not an easy match for a Savior who went to the cross and calls us to follow (v. 18-21). How are our natural appetites part of our created goodness? How do they get distorted by sin? If we set goals fitting with our “citizenship in heaven,” how will that shape our response to our earthly appetites? How might it change those appetites?
- In v. 2-3, Paul addresses two women leaders in the church who are in a conflict. He tells them to “be of the same mind in the Lord.” How do we pursue being of the same mind? When differences of mind lead to conflict, what is your wisdom for how to resolve it? What happens when we don't resolve it?
- In v. 7 we have an astonishing promise: peace in all circumstances. That's different from getting all circumstances right so that we can have peace. (Good thing – when is that happening?!) How does the Lord enable peace in hard times? What can we do to receive such peace? Has there been a time when you were in a tough place and yet had peace? What happened?
- If the last phrase of v. 9 is the promise (“the God of peace will be with you”), what does Paul prescribe in v. 8-9 that enables us to receive that promise? How have you tried to “think about these things”?

Next week we will focus on 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.