

# YOU ARE THE MODEL

## PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21

BACKGROUND: William Barclay quotes Bengel as Paul's example or model to follow: "Become fellow imitators with me in imitating Christ." William Barclay, The Letter to the Philippians, p.67. You are now the model.

***WITH THE ANNOINTING YOU HAVE*** as the Holy Spirit lives in you and His leadership confirms that you are a child of God. You have attained the righteousness that is not your own but the righteousness that comes from God through faith. Now you must decide if the gospel is going to stop with you, or are you going to step out in faith and lead others to Christ. (**Philippians 3:15-16, fn 3:16, I John 2:20-27, fn 2:26-27, Romans 10:14, fn 10:14, Romans 15:14, II Corinthians 1:21-22, fn 1:21-22**) *How are you qualified to lead a new group?*

***WITH DISCERNMENT LIKE PAUL***, our model and example. "Paul does not offer any middle ground or middle way. Similar to Christ's challenge 'You cannot serve God and money' (Luke 16:13), Paul's challenge will not allow his readers the possibility of serving two masters. Either their god is their stomach, or they will consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Either they will pursue earthly things, or they will pursue the 'heavenward call of God in Christ Jesus.'" G. Walter Hansen, The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter to the Philippians, p. 267. (**Philippians 3:17-19, fn 3:17, fn 3:17-21, Luke 16:13-15, fn 16:13, fn 16:14, Revelation 3:14-22, fn 3:17, fn 3:20, I Corinthians 4:16, fn 4:16**) *How could you know that you are not serving two masters?*

***WITH HEAVEN'S CITIZENSHIP*** your eyes should be full of anticipation as you eagerly await your Savior. His great power will change our mortal bodies to become like Jesus Christ Himself. There is no greater pleasure and delight than to look at and look for Jesus! (**Philippians 3:20-21, fn 3:20, fn 3:21, I John 3:2-3, fn 3:2-3, Colossians 3:1-4, fn 3:1-2, II Timothy 4:6-8, fn 4:6-8**) *What would it take for you to remember daily to get ready to meet Jesus?*

*Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*

