

Philippians 3.17-4.1

**17**

BGT Συμμιμηταί μου γίνεσθε, ἀδελφοί, καὶ σκοπεῖτε τοὺς οὕτω περιπατοῦντας καθὼς ἔχετε τύπον ἡμᾶς.  
NET Be imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and watch carefully those who are living this way, just as you have us as an example.  
NRS Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.  
KJV Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.  
DRA Be ye followers of me, brethren: and observe them who walk so as you have our model.  
NAU Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.  
NIV Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.  
NLT Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.  
MSG Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal.

- Συμμιμηταί: Another συν· compound: cf. Phil. 1:23, 27; 2:2, 25; 3:10, 17, 21; 4:3
- How should you translate ἀδελφοί in this situation?
- Paul had talked about pursuing the σκόπος in 3:14, and now he wants the Philippians to observe/σκοπέω those who walk as he does.

**18**

BGT πολλοὶ γὰρ περιπατοῦσιν οὓς πολλάκις ἔλεγον ὑμῖν, νῦν δὲ καὶ κλαίων λέγω, τοὺς ἐχθροὺς τοῦ σταυροῦ τοῦ Χριστοῦ,  
NET For many live (about whom I often told you, and now say even with tears) as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
NRS For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.  
KJV (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:  
DRA For many walk, of whom I have told you often (and now tell you weeping) that they are enemies of the cross of Christ:  
NAU For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,  
NIV For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.  
NLT For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.  
MSG There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross.

- Note the variety of ways that the English translations punctuate this phrase!
- Note the contrast in use of περιπατέω in vv. 17 and 18. (Your translation should somehow capture the contrasting parallel.)

**19**

BGT ὧν τὸ τέλος ἀπώλεια, ὧν ὁ θεὸς ἡ κοιλία καὶ ἡ δόξα ἐν τῇ αἰσχύνῃ αὐτῶν, οἱ τὰ ἐπίγεια φρονοῦντες.  
NET Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, they exult in their shame, and they think about earthly things.  
NRS Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.  
KJV Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)  
DRA Whose end is destruction: whose God is their belly: and whose glory is in their shame: who mind earthly things.  
NAU whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.  
NIV Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.  
NLT They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.  
MSG But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.

- What is the literal meaning of κοιλία? Are the translations in the NAU/NLT or NIV accurate? (Is Paul concerned about what they eat? Cf. Romans 16:8.)
- To what is Paul referring when he talks about their αἰσχύνῃ?
- Paul is critical here of their thinking about τὰ ἐπίγεια, but remember what he said in 2:10!

**20**

BGT ἡμῶν γὰρ τὸ πολίτευμα ἐν οὐρανοῖς ὑπάρχει, ἐξ οὗ καὶ σωτῆρα ἀπεκδεχόμεθα κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν,  
NET But our citizenship is in heaven--and we also await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,  
NRS But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
KJV For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:  
DRA But our conversation is in heaven: from whence also we look for the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
NAU For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;  
NIV But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,  
NLT But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.  
MSG But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ,

- Paul had talked previously about how one lives as a citizen (πολιτεύομαι) in 1:27.
- Where else in the undisputed, genuine letters of Paul does he call Jesus σωτήρ? >> Is the NET Bible correct in using the indefinite article and not capitalizing when they translate with “a savior”? Or are the other translations correct in using “the Savior”?

**21**

BGT

ὃς μετασχηματίσει τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως ἡμῶν σύμμορφον τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ κατὰ τὴν ἐνέργειαν τοῦ δύνασθαι αὐτὸν καὶ ὑποτάξαι αὐτῷ τὰ πάντα.

NET

who will transform these humble bodies of ours into the likeness of his glorious body by means of that power by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

NRS

He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

KJV

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

DRA

Who will reform the body of our lowness, made like to the body of his glory, according to the operation whereby also he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

NAU

who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

NIV

who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

NLT

He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

MSG

who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

- Compare this verse to Romans 12:2: καὶ μὴ **συσχηματίζεσθε** τῷ αἰῶνι τούτῳ, ἀλλὰ **μεταμορφοῦσθε** τῇ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοῦς εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον.
- Recall that Paul previously used σχῆμα, μορφή, and ταπεινόω language in 2:7f.
- Note that τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως ἡμῶν is contrasted to τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ. Keeping this parallel in mind, observe carefully how the various translations render the genitive nouns and pronouns.
- ἐνέργειαν: Cf. 2:13.
- ὑποτάξαι: Cf. 1 Cor 15:27.

**4:1**

BGT

Ὡστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοὶ καὶ ἐπιπόθητοι, χαρὰ καὶ στέφανός μου, οὕτως στήκετε ἐν κυρίῳ, ἀγαπητοί.

NET

So then, my brothers and sisters, dear friends whom I long to see, my joy and crown, stand in the Lord in this way, my dear friends!

NRS

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

KJV

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

DRA

Therefore my dearly beloved brethren and most desired, my joy and my crown: so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

NAU

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

NIV

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

NLT

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

MSG

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

- χαρὰ: Cf. Phil. 1:4, 25; 2:2, 29; 4:1. For χαρὰ καὶ στέφανός, cf. 1 Thess 2:19.
- στήκετε: Cf. 1:27.
- Note the contrasts Paul is setting up in 3:19 and 3:20-4:1.
 

their end: destruction	our citizenship: in heaven
their god: belly	Savior, Lord Jesus Christ
their glory: shame	body of our humiliation > Jesus Christ's body of glory
thinking earthly things	stand firm in the Lord