

Homesick for Heaven

Philippians 3:17-21

LG Questions for 11.09.08

Getting Started

- 1) Homesick.** Most of us like to travel, but few of us like to move. Do you think that's a true statement? If so, why do you think that's the case? a) Describe a time when you found yourself in a strange place and the factors that made it difficult to be there. b) Read Philippians 3:17-21 and tell how these factors might explain the discomfort you and I often feel living in this present world.

Getting into the Bible

- 2) Read Philippians 3:17.** a) Even though Jesus is our perfect example, Paul tells the Philippians in verse 17 to follow his example. Why is it helpful to have human role models to pattern our lives after? b) Describe someone who has been a helpful example to you as you've followed Christ. c) Name someone for whom you would like to provide the same sort of inspiration.
- 3) Read Philippians 3:18-19.** a) In verse 18, Paul warns us about people he calls "enemies of the cross of Christ." a) Pick two examples—one from the Bible and another from our present world—of the people you think he had in mind. How can they make it difficult to follow Jesus? b) Describe the terrible end that awaits them because of their evil influence. (See 2 Thess. 1:8-9.)
- 4) Read Philippians 3:20-21.** a) According to verse 20, where is home for the follower of Jesus? (See Hebrews 11:13-16.) b) How will we get there and what is the greatest change you look forward to once we arrive? (See also John 14:3 and Rev. 21:1-5.) c) How should the anticipation of this "star trek" affect the way you and I live today? (See also Phil. 4:1-3 and 1 John 2:23—3:3.) d) Name one thing you would change about your life today if you knew the "estimated time of departure" was midnight tomorrow.

Getting Personal and Practical

- 5) Final Thought.** Even though this planet has been cursed by sin, name something you've enjoyed about living here. Take a moment to tell God thank you for the good things you've enjoyed about this world and the even better things you're looking forward to in the world to come.