

**“Possessing True JOY”**  
**Philippians: A Book Study**  
**“Living In the Real World”**  
**10/5/2008**

**Text: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Paul has recently challenged us to “relentlessly pursue right objectives” (3:12-16), which means to reach a greater saturation point of Christlikeness.

O.K. – Where to begin? Any clues or tips out there? Indeed! Paul provides us with four specific things here in our text today. We are LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD and that means.....

**1. WE NEED THOSE** – v.17  
*<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.*

A quick warning:

Look for those who exhibit mature characteristics like...

We are LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD and that also means.....

**2. THE** **IS ALL**  
**AROUND US** – v.18-19 *<sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”*

**3. REMEMBER YOUR** – v.20-21  
*<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”*

Our involvements are on earth but...*our citizenship is in heaven*. This may create some tension now and then, but what a challenging opportunity.

We are LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD and that finally means.....

**4. STANDING, NOT** – 4:1  
*<sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.”*