**The Study of Philippians: A Discourse in Joy**

**Look out for false teachers, Part 2 - Philippians 3:14-21**

**Hermeneutics, Polemical Genre.**

Paul moves in Philippians 3 to a polemical stance against false teachers.

Polemical writings are characterized by:

1. Controversy
2. Contending for a position
3. Reaction among the readers
4. May involve name-calling
5. In scripture, it is essential to warn Christians about false teachers.

**Paul advises about spiritual maturity.**

Mature believers understand the importance of the spiritual race.

*“14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”*

(Philippians 3:14–16)

Mature believers understand the importance of mentors who are followers of Christ.

*"17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”*

(Philippians 3:17–19)

Mature believers understand their citizenship is in heaven.

*20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 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."*

(Philippians 3:17–21)