



Join with others in following  
my example...

Philippians 3:17

# Growing TOGETHER

What on earth are we here for?  
A CHURCHWIDE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CAMPAIGN

## Introduction:

- I'll admit, living the Christian life – walking with Jesus, growing in Christ, abiding in Him, whatever you want to call it – isn't always easy! If it were, why would so many who once started out so admirably abandon their faith and shipwreck their lives?
- Tougher question: Why won't our kids who grew up in our homes, went to church and even Christian school follow Christ like we want them to as they enter those young adult years? Why am I having such a hard time following Him? How do pastors, church leaders and people we once respected and looked up to fall into moral failure?
- This morning, we will discover God's answer to the question I'm guessing we have all asked at one time or another: How do I stand 'stay the course' and grow in my relationship with the Lord?

## 1. Live As Though Jesus Will Return \_\_\_\_\_

*We eagerly await a Savior from [heaven]...* (v. 20b)

John 14:2, 3; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; II Peter 3:11b-12a

- Heaven – not earth – is our real \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Our citizenship is in heaven.* (v. 20)  
Psalm 23:6

- There, He will \_\_\_\_\_ us into His likeness.  
*He will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.* (v. 21)  
I John 3:2; I Corinthians 15:52b-54

## In the meantime...

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ With Others In Following Jesus

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the goal of following Jesus.

Matthew 4:19; 16:24; Galatians 4:19; Romans 8:28

- Spiritual leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ to be examples.  
*Join with others in following **my example**, brothers, and take note of those who live **according to the pattern we gave you.*** (v. 17, emphasis added)

*I believe the responsibilities of the Timothys and the Epaphroditus of that age are the responsibilities of the pastor-teachers, elders of this age. And we have that great responsibility of following after Paul toward Christ in such a way that we become the flesh and blood that others follow. This is our responsibility. This is the responsibility of those elders and overseers and pastor-teachers and teachers who lead. We are to set the pattern.*

John MacArthur, [www.gty.org/Resources](http://www.gty.org/Resources)

I Timothy 4:12; I Peter 5:2,3

- Joining others on the journey helps me \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Join with others in following...* (v. 17)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

## Conclusion:

So why have some stopped following Christ?

*Bottom line:* No matter who. No matter what. They took their eyes off \_\_\_\_\_ . Or they went at it \_\_\_\_\_ . Or \_\_\_\_\_ .

***We are better together!***