

**A Christmas Carol**  
**Message 3- "The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come"**  
**Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**  
**December 20, 2009**

*"Answer me this...are the things you have shown me a shadow of the things that will be or are they a shadow of the things that may be only?"*

*Scrooge to the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come*

*"Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends...I accept that, but if those courses be departed from...the ends must change...tell me that is so by what you show me."*

*Scrooge to the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come*

**STAND FIRM**

*Three Things that Keep Me from Fearing the Future*

**Key #1: I know my \_\_\_\_\_.** Phil. 3:17-20

*"But our citizenship is in heaven."*

**The Search for Significance**

*Five Places People Look for "Meaning"*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - *He who has the most fun wins. Eccl. 2:1-3*

*"I thought in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.' But that also proved to be meaningless." vs. 1*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - *He who works the hardest wins. Eccl. 2:4-11*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ - *He who knows the most wins. Eccl. 2:15-16*

*"Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom..." vs. 12*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ - *He who has the most stuff wins. Eccl. 5:10-12, 15*

5. \_\_\_\_\_ - *He who has the nicest things said about him wins. Eccl. 8:10*

*"Then too, I saw the wicked buried-those who used to come and go from the holy place and receive praise in the city where they did this. This too is meaningless."*

*"For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things." Phil. 3:18-19*

**Key #2: I know my \_\_\_\_\_.** Vs. 20-21

*"And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 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."*

A. *There is a confidence that comes from knowing \_\_\_\_\_.* Vs. 20

B. *There is a confidence from knowing \_\_\_\_\_.* Vs. 21

*Background lessons: Rev. 21:1-7, John 14:1-7, 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 1 Cor. 15:50-58*

*"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body...I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52 In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality...Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you." 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 1 Cor. 15:50-53, 58*

**Key #3: I trust** ..... Vs. 21, 4:7, 9, 20

*"...we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will..."*

*Phil. 4:7 "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

*Phil 4:9 "And the God of peace will be with you."*

*Phil 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."*

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." Isaiah 9:6-7*

### Two Powerful Epitaphs

*Luke 16:19-31*

The rich man- when everything was stripped away by life and death he had .....

Lazarus- when everything was stripped away by life and death he had .....

*"I am not the man I was, I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope!...I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year, I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!" Scrooge*