

“TYPES” In The Greek New Testament

Part Three

“Step In Time”

Phil. 3:17

Introduction: Walt Disney’s 1964 film Mary Poppins contained a song and dance number “Step in Time”, wherein rooftop chimney swipes followed the lead of Bert in a series of high stepping maneuvers. That is, until Mary Poppins leads in a series of moves that no one could step in time with.

Paul under house arrest in Rome advises the Church at Philippi to step in time pursuing Christian maturity, while focusing on a singular type, which is imprinted by the Spirit upon multiple Christians. They were strongly advised to focus and follow moves that all Christians have the potential to step in time with!

I. Distinguishing Key Contextual Terms – v3-18

- A. Run (press) v14:
- B. Step (walk) v16:
- C. Standard of Measurement (rule) v16:
- D. Restrictive Reflective Thinking (mind) v16:
- E. Fellow Mimics (followers) v17:
- F. Focus (mark) v14 & v17:
- G. Lifestyle (walk) v17 & v18:
- H. Type (ensample) v17:

II. Developing The Understanding – v3-18

- A. Run the Race:
 - 1. This is the race for individual Christian maturity.
 - 2. This is the race down a personal race course for maturity established by God the Father.
 - 3. This race is designed for the advancement of the individual Christian’s Christ likeness to the glory of God.
 - 4. The focus of this race is the Christian’s position in Christ, which is the finish line.
 - 5. The Christian is in competition with himself/herself in this race.

B. Individual Steps by a standardized rule of measurement:

1. The individual steps of the Christian running the race for Christian maturity are to be deliberately, thoughtfully taken, (avoid being tripped up).
2. There is a textual problem regarding whether the word rule is in the text. I accept it being there.
3. Rule is a standard of measurement, thus the Christian gait in the steps down the course for Christian maturity are to be regulated according to a specific standard.
4. The standard rule of individual steps is a quality of righteousness through faith (v9), based upon “the faith” (v9), by the Spirit (v3) to gain (win) a quality of Christ likeness (v8); cp. Gal. 5:5-7.

C. “In Unison Mimics” are not pretenders, robots, or zombies, but Christians at different places of Christ-like maturity moving harmoniously together in a synchronized walk of life (lifestyle).

1. These synchronized mimics are concerning a lifestyle displayed by Paul, while staying in the race for Christian maturity. Mimics concerning how Paul kept on running the race for maturity, down the Father’s course for his earthly life, (*i.e.* forgetting, reaching, focusing) v13-14.
2. These synchronized mimics take individual steps in the race for Christian spiritual maturity by the same measuring standard, (run according to the rule).

D. “In Unison Mimics” focus intently upon the ***right type*** of Christians, the ones imprinted with the pattern of Christ likeness.

1. This is one type, which is imprinted upon plural Christians.
2. There are also ***wrong types*** of people for Christians to focus upon:
 - a. Judaizers (those within the Church who teach that Christians must follow the Mosaic Law): v1-2
 - b. Antinomians (those within the Church who teach lawlessness): v18-19

NOTE: The Church has battled through this dispensation with two opposite views concerning God’s grace by faith, *i.e.* legalism and license (Epicurean or Antinomianism and Judaizers); both erroneous views are energized by the flesh, the sin nature, Gal. 3:3 cp. Gal. 3:11-13, 5:13.

Conclusion: Run, step, co-mimic, walk while focusing correctly in Christ and looking at the right pattern!