

Series: Striving Together for the Faith

ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19

Text: Philippians 3:18

Philippians 3:18

¹⁸ (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Introduction:

Paul in his desire to watch over the flock was always cognizant for things that harm or hinder the work of God in those churches.

Not only was he cognizant but he was also candid when he would reveal that wasn't biblical or right.

That is what Paul was doing in this passage – warning them that there are enemies of the cross of Christ.

Note:

1. THEIR DESCRIPTIONS (VS. 18)

Philippians 3:18

¹⁸ *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, **that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:***

They are described as enemies.

These were not infidels or heathens – but rather these individuals were people who practiced worship.

They were like those the Lord spoke of in Matthew 23:27:

Matthew 23:27

²⁷ *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.***

They were whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones.

We must remember there is a difference in being “white washed” and “washed white.”

Their religion, according to Jesus, was an effort of clever camouflage.

They seem sincere and appear harmless. They know the lingo and can quote scripture with a degree of skill.

They even know truth – just enough to twist it and use it for their own purpose.

Note what Jude says about these individuals:

Jude 1:4

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:8

⁸ Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

Note their characteristics:

- They Creep In
- They Corrupt the Truth – Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness
- They Contest the Lord
- They Corrupt the Flesh

- They Converse Evil of Dignities

Not only was apostasy a problem in the early Church but apostasy is evident in the Church today.

We that:

- The Scripture is Under Attack

The Bible, as never before, is being challenged as to its validity and veracity.

- The Saviour Is Under Attack

Jude goes on to describe them this way:

Jude 1:12

¹² These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

The word “spots” is a term that’s used to signify dangerous reefs in the sea, hidden under the water’s surface.

Note not only their “Description” but also:

2. THEIR DELIGHT (VS. 19) – WHOSE GOD IS THEIR BELLY

Philippians 3:19

¹⁹ Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

The very thing that God has condemned, they crown as divine.

They have a god whom they adore -that god is themselves and their carnal appetites.

- They live with Unrestrained emotions
- They live with Unlimited appetites for sins
- They have an Unchecked desire in their body

Their motto is like the man found in Luke 12:

Luke 12:19

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, **eat, drink, and be merry.**

Philippians 3:19

¹⁹ *Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and **whose glory is in their shame**, who mind earthly things.)*

That which they glory in is shameful things.

They mind earthly things.

We too see many today who glory in shameful things.

What is it that we glory in?

What is it we delight in?

Note not only their “Description and Delight” but lastly:

3. THEIR DESTRUCTION (VS. 19) – WHOSE END IS DESTRUCTION

Philippians 3:18-19

¹⁸ (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ **Whose end is destruction**, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

No doubt that is why Paul wept in writing these words.

He knew their end was destruction.

Luke describes this destruction in descriptive details.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, **being in torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and **cool**

my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and **thou art tormented.** ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, **lest they also come into this place of torment.** ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went

unto them from the dead, they will repent.³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Note also:

Matthew 13:42

⁴² And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be **wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

Matthew 13:50

⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be **wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

Matthew 22:13

¹³ Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Luke 13:28

²⁸ There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth,** when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Revelation 14:11

¹¹ And the **smoke** of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who

worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 20:12-15

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Note the torments awaiting those whose end is destruction:

- Crying
- Wailing
- Thirst
- Darkness
- Gnashing or Grinding of Teeth
- Unquenchable Fire

- Indestructible Worms
- Wicked and Vile People

Close

Five Minutes After I Die

*Loved ones will weep o'er my silent face,
Dear ones will clasp me in sad embrace,
Shadows and darkness will fill the place,
Five minutes after I die.*

*Faces that sorrow I will not see,
Voices that murmur will not reach me,
But where, oh where will my spirit be
Five minutes after I die?*

*Naught to repair the good I lack,
Fixed to the goal of my chosen track,
No room to repent, no turning back,
Five minutes after I die.*

*Now I can stifle convictions stirred,
Now I can silence the Voice oft heard,
Then fulfillment of God's sure Word,*

Five minutes after I die.

*Mated for aye with my chosen throng,
Long is eternity, O so long,
Then woe is me if my soul be wrong,
Five minutes after I die*

*Oh what a fool - hard the word, but true
Passing the Saviour with death in view,
Doing a deed I can ne'er undo
Five minutes after I die*

*If I am flinging a fortune away,
If I am wasting salvation's day,
"Just is my sentence," my soul shall say
Five minutes after I die*

*God help you to choose! your eternal state
Depends on your choice, you dare not wait;
You must choose now; it will be too late
Five minutes after you die.*

How is it with us today?

Are you a Christian?

Are you weeping over the future destruction of the
lost?