

19. ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST: Philippians 3:17-19

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, October 4th, 2020

Theme: "imitating mature Christians is a great help in following Jesus, therefore we must make sure we are imitating the right mentors and reject imitating those that walk as enemies of the cross of Christ."

I. IMITATING MATURE CHRISTIANS IS A GREAT HELP IN FOLLOWING CHRIST (v. 17)

PHILIPPIANS 3:17 "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."

- **Q.** What example has Paul set for us in this letter to the Philippians?
- You need mentors. I need mentors.
- **LAWSON:** "Wise is the believer who has several such people in their life as mentors and leaders. Misguided is the believer who thinks they have no need of these types of influences."
- **Q.** Ask yourself, Who am I imitating? and Can others imitate me?

II. REJECTING THE EXAMPLE OF FALSE CHRISTIANS IS A GREAT HELP IN FOLLOWING CHRIST (v. 18)

Philippians 3:18 "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you *even with tears*, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ."

- **Notice Paul says they** "walk as enemies of the cross of Christ."
- **Notice also that this is no light matter.** He is warning us of false Christians—they profess to be Christians but they are not born again and they do not love Jesus from the heart. Yet he does it with tears!
- **Q.** Do you weep for those who walk as enemies of the cross or Christ, or do you scoff at them?
- **Scoffers are not pleasing to the Lord; weepers are.**

III. YOU MUST REJECT IMITATING THOSE WHOSE END IS DESTRUCTION (v. 19a)

Philippians 3:19a "Their end is destruction,"

- **2 Peter 2:1** "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction."
- **Q.** Now, what do those whose end is destruction look like day to day? **A.** Look at the second part of **verse 19**—"their god is their belly."

IV. YOU MUST REJECT IMITATING THOSE WHOSE GOD IS THEIR BELLY (v. 19b)

Philippians 3:19b "their god is their belly,"

- **1 Corinthians 6:13** "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food'—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body."
- **A Christians deep desire is not to do whatever their flesh wants, but rather to do whatever pleases the Lord Jesus! Their god is not their belly; their God is their Beloved!**
- **Q.** What else marks those whose end is destruction? **A.** Look at the third part of **verse 19**—"they glory in their shame."

V. YOU MUST REJECT IMITATING THOSE WHO GLORY IN THEIR SHAME (v. 19c)

Philippians 3:19c "and they glory in their shame,"

- **How dare any who bear the name of Christ Jesus and profess to be bought at such a high price brag about the shameful things that necessitated the Righteous One go to the cross?**
- **Romans 6:21-22** "21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life."
- **Those who have been ransomed by His precious blood, glory in Christ Jesus! They do not glory in the shameful things that He died to free them from.**
- **Q.** What else marks those whose end is destruction? **A.** Look at the fourth part of **verse 19**—"with minds set on earthly things."

VI. YOU MUST REJECT IMITATING THOSE WHO SET THEIR MINDS ON EARTHLY THINGS (v. 19d)

Philippians 3:19d "with minds set on earthly things."

- **Matthew 16:23** "But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'"
- **Q.** Is your mind set on earthly things? What are you setting your mind on that will not matter in 10 years, 100 years, 1,000 years? Jesus will.
- **James 4:4** "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

The end of all of this is destruction. And which of have clean hands when it comes to these things? None.

Thanks be to God for Jesus Christ—He was destroyed with the destruction you deserve so that you could be forgiven. And more than that! so you could repent and live a new life for His glory!

1 Peter 2:24-25 "24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."