

Philippians 3:17-20

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, imitate me, and pay attention to those who live by the example we have given you. ¹⁸ I have often told you, and now tell you with tears in my eyes, that many live as the enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ In the end they will be destroyed. Their own emotions are their god, and they take pride in the shameful things they do. Their minds are set on worldly things.

The Apostle Paul is exposing to the Philippians, a reproach which still seeks to pollute the church today, carnal Christianity. This godless lifestyle is just as real in the 21st Century, as it was in the 1st Century. Paul is revealing his heart here, as he exposes this blight in the church. One might find it very difficult to imagine that someone could truly be an enemy of the cross; but that is exactly what anyone who teaches any other way to heaven outside of Jesus Christ is! Too, many messages are being taught on the blessings, and not enough are being preached on the sacrifices of our faith. Look at all of the godless men and women who wear crosses, as if it is a cultural expression. The cross in the first century was to Christians then, as the gas chamber, lethal injection and the gallows are to us today. These men and women did not idolize the cross; rather they recognized that it was a humiliating and excruciating form of capital punishment. They understood the priceless payment that was made for their sins, by a man who was absolutely guiltless!! Today, a person need not look very far to find supposed Christians, who promote a salvation outside of the cross. These men and women live lawless and unrepentive lives, and they blindly believe that they are basically good people, and that God will gladly receive them on their terms. This Brethren, is called deception! Often another form of this perversion of truth is when people are told that once they have prayed the sinners' prayer, that it doesn't matter what they do after that. That God is obligated by His own Word to allow them into His Kingdom, no matter what they do, or don't do; that this type of thinking comes from an unregenerate mind. Once a person is truly "Born Again", they aren't looking for excuses to sin; they're looking to be free of anything that is an offense to their God. Let me make my point this way, say that sin could be compared to diseases; would any person with a terminal disease want to be free of most of the disease, or from all of it? Friends, sin will kill the spirit of a man, just as fast as cancer will kill his body. So why would anyone who is right in their mind, look to marry those sins with eternal salvation? Why do most people find it easier to believe that God will save them from damnation, when they can't trust Him here for their health or their wealth? Are we anesthetized in our consciences when it comes to eternal matters; but acutely unbelieving in God's Promises here on this earth?

Friend, perhaps you have been playing games with God. Perhaps you walked with God as a youth or even an adult, but somewhere you became offended at God, or maybe you just grew tired of denying your fleshly desires. I exhort you today by the Mercy of God, to stop this spiritual self-mutilating lifestyle, and return to your King on bended knee. Choose once and for all, to turn your back on the sins which you have been serving. Each of us will stand before the Living God one day, as either an enemy of the cross or as one who surrendered to the Christ, who died on it for our sins. The Bible tells us that today is our appointed time to choose, and that our eternity is determined by that choice. So please, choose wisely!!