

“Enemies of the Cross”

Dub McClish

In the mildest of his epistles (in terms of rebuke and correction), the apostle Paul nonetheless warned the Philippian saints of “enemies of the cross of Christ” (3:18–19), which he at one time was. He thereby vividly aligned those who lived contrary to the Gospel with the former Saul of Tarsus in his most zealous days of persecuting the Lord. Notably, Paul here made the cross the apex, summary, and symbol of Jesus’ earthly life and work (His purpose in coming, His doctrine, His church, et al.).

In this context the apostle specified three identifying marks of these enemies, who still thrive in the time and place in which we live:

- **“Whose God is the belly”** – These are those who live only to satisfy fleshly appetites. They live by the philosophy, “If it feels good, do it.” The gross breakdown of sexual morality in our nation over the past half-century is a graphic manifestation of “belly-worship.” “Bellyolatry” also reveals itself in hedonisms ranging from road rage to alcohol consumption, drug addiction, gambling, and various criminal acts (some of which acts some politicians in the highest circles of power are guilty). As America has increasingly cast aside the Bible (and God with it), its righteous restraints of continence have increasingly vanished. *Belly-worship* is simply an apt moniker for unmitigated selfishness, which is a good working definition of Secularism and Humanism.
- **“Whose glory is in their shame”** – *Glory* here refers to behavior of which men might rightly boast and be proud, thus things men ought to honor. The enemies of Calvary, however, have turned things upside down, proudly parading and engaging in behaviors of which they should be ashamed. No more apt description than this could be drafted of homosexual practitioners and their defenders. In step with them are those who advocate removing all restraints in the entertainment media on nudity, sexual acts, and cesspool language. All who participate in and boast of **any** evil deed have thereby made themselves “enemies of the cross.”
- **“Who mind earthly things”** – These folk live only for time, with little or no thought beyond (which is why their “bellies” are their “god”). Theirs is the old Epicurean credo: “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” (1 Cor. 15:32). Its modern incarnation, Humanism, denies the existence of God, the immortality of the human soul, the resurrection of the body, and the realm of spirits.

Paul prefaced the foregoing list by saying of such practitioners, “whose end is perdition.” That is, they will suffer the unrecoverable and eternal loss of their souls in Hell. Jesus will say to them: “Depart from me...into the eternal fire” (Mat. 25:41).

[**Note:** I wrote this article for and it appeared in the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Denton, TX, August 23, 2013.]

Attribution: From *TheScripturecache.com*, Dub McClish, owner and administrator.