Enemies Of The Cross

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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Topic:
ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

Bible Text: Phillipians 3:18-19

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for today. As we are starting our study, open our hearts so that your word will have a place. We pray for our leaders, bless them and give them more wisdom in Jesus name, Amen.

Introduction

I welcome you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I hope you had a wonderful day? As we continue in our preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, may we not be found wanting in the kingdom of God on that last day in Jesus Christ's name.

The topic before us today is a very sensitive one that requires rapid attention for us to be able to bring out something tangible from it and I pray that as we study may the Holy Spirit Himself inspire us in Jesus Christ's name. Amen

Bible Text

Philippians 3:18-19 KJV - 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: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Study

"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:"

Paul the apostle was talking about the fact that the church has set them as a pattern, a model for their lives in accordance with the life of Christ. Since it seems that way, he enjoined the church to follow their steps so as not to be misled. But in this verse of the scriptures, Paul says "many" walk, not "few," but many walk in ways that are contrary to the ways of Christ. From this, we can see that the fact that many are walking towards a particular direction

does not make it the right direction. This is what many use as a criteria to choose which way is right or wrong; they work by sight and not by the Spirit. Looking into the world currently, we will see different kinds of Gospels; these Gospels are inconsistent with the word of God but yet embraced by many because they are popular, whereas the true Gospel is not popular because only a few find it to walk in its way. **Matthew 7:14 KJV** states, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Jesus Christ Himself said the way to the kingdom of God is narrow, and "few," not many, find it.

We must be very careful of the way many tread today if we must enter heaven and not lose our souls. Paul has been telling the church about these, many sets of people who walk in a way contrary to the ways of Christ, and this time he says it weeping, why should he be weeping? This is because anyway walking in which is not in accordance with the ways of Christ leads to destruction.

He was so much concerned about the souls of the people that he did not want them to perish; therefore, he kept warning them. Any preacher who does not warn his followers against danger is working for Satan. Paul calls them enemies of the cross of Christ, whose pattern should not be followed. Their numbers have increased over the years, and those who would not discern will be led astray. If this set of people are enemies of the cross, what made them so? And how do we know them? Paul makes it clear on how we can recognize them, and from what he said, we can see that a person can be a friend of Christ and later become His enemy. The true reason for this change is the way one chooses to walk. One might be walking rightly with the Lord but later choose to walk in a different way, turning their back against the Lord and becoming an enemy of the cross. May we not become enemies of the cross of Christ, in Jesus Christ's name.

The apostle started by telling us what the endpoint of those who walk in ways contrary to the pattern laid down would be. He said their end is destruction, which is according to their evil works. In **2 Corinthians 11:15 KJV**, it is stated, 'Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.'

Paul tells us three attributes of people who are enemies of the cross. We must remember that, from the context of this passage, Paul was talking

about those who are leaders whose way of life is being imitated and followed by others, those who walk and model their lives for others to see.

Therefore, the enemies of Christ's cross are known by the following ways:

1. '**Their god is their belly:**' This implies that there are those who serve their bodily appetites. When talking about appetite, it covers desires for food, sex, and many other forms. They crave for these things to satisfy their senses or indulge in fleshly lust. They are only concerned about what can satisfy their fleshly desires. They focus on the vanities of life. Those who live their lives like this are enemies of Christ and should not be followed. They serve mammon, they are after money to satisfy their belly. Whatever thing will not make their belly full, they will run away from it. Even if it means that they pervert the truth, they are ready to do it and are even doing it. **1 Timothy 6:5 KJV** says, 'Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.' They think serving their stomach is godliness; withdraw from them.

If you see any pastor who is more concerned about your tithes than your spiritual growth, he is an enemy of the cross of Christ whose god is his belly. Some time ago, I read a screenshot chat of a pastor who sent a message to one of his church members who stopped paying tithes for about three months. He told her that since she had refused to tithe, the spiritual covering which comes from him had expired. This is ridiculous. This kind of minister is not serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Flee from them. Those who are worthy to collect your tithes, offerings, etc are those who labour over you in word and prayer, those who are concerned and cater for your spiritual growths, those who guide you on the right path of Holiness & Righteousness, true ministers of God, not the other way round. A minister who does not care about where people get the money they bring to church or give him, as long as they bring money, is an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Man of God, have you not turned yourself into an enemy of the cross of Christ? Yes, you started well, but what is happening to you now? Yes, you need money, but Jesus Christ said He will provide. Why bend your standards because of your belly? Why? Remember the path you have chosen to tread will lead you to everlasting regrets. Why not endure? The Lord will come through soon. Don't relent; save your soul!

2. **'Their glory is in their shame:'** These sets of people are proud of shameful things? They come out to talk about their sinful lifestyles as if it is

not serious and even brag about it. Yet they have thousands and millions following them. They take pride in their ungodly lifestyles and make it clear for all to see. This proves how foolish they are, for foolishness brings joy to those who have no sense. **Proverbs 15:21 KJV** says, 'Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom, but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.' This is what is happening today. We are now seeing what should not even be heard among the children of God being posted about. This is the work of the enemies of Christ's cross.

They make sin look less serious, and as a result, they increase the level of sin in the church and in the world. **Hosea 4:7 KJV** states, ' As they were increased, so they sinned against me; therefore will I change their glory into shame.' the more they increased the more they sin. Increase comes in different ways, it can be material increase, financial increase, it can be in population, it can be in achievements, therefore, in whatever way their increase might have come they multiplied their sins by it, God would then turn their glory to shame!!!

When a set of people continue to sin without remorse, the Lord would give them over to a reprobate mind, and they will do things which are not convenient. **Romans 1:28 KJV** says, ' And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.' This is what has happened to many of them. They have been swept away through their lusts for things that satisfy presently and not eternally because they persist in it, God left them alone to do things that are shameful openly."

3. **'They mind earthly things:'** This is another way to know the enemies of Christ's cross. Their messages are void of eternity in view; they focus on earthly things, things that are ephemeral and will soon go into oblivion.

It is written that we should set our minds on things above, but this set of people set their minds on things beneath heaven. **Colossians 3:2 KJV** says, 'Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.' This is because they are of the flesh and after the things of the flesh. **Romans 8:5 KJV** states, 'For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.'

There is no friend of Christ's cross who will mind earthly things because they are after the things of the Spirit.

Enemies of Christ's Cross are carnal men who follow along with the trends and fashions, music, and behaviors of this present world. They are those who run after the vanities this world has to offer. Their desires revolve around the glory and beauty of this world, and they aim for fame, position, popularity, wealth, and all. These are those whose end is destruction, and whose lifestyles, when followed, would lead one to destruction too.

Some Bible truths about the enemies of Christ's cross:

1. They do not encourage evangelism.

2. They discourage holy and righteous living.

3. They take sinful lifestyles lightly.

4. They focus on money rather than souls.

5. They are partial in their dealings with people because of what they can gain.

6. They enjoy sinning.

7. They flow with the worldly ways of life around them.

8. They do not strive to make heaven; they are concerned about earthly gains.

9. They are immoral.

10. They are carnal men and women

The Bible also makes it clear that those who are approved by God live a pure lifestyle, for their citizenship is in heaven. Although they are on Earth, they belong to Heaven, where their focus is. Though they are physically present on Earth, their spirits are connected to Heaven because that is where they lay their treasures. **Matthew 6:21 KJV** states, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' You should be discerning and know who to follow so that your soul will not be lost.

Where are you laying your treasure? If you have been laying your treasure on Earth, kindly be aware that you are an enemy of Christ's cross. Don't let the sacrifice and the death of Christ over you be in vain. Retrace your steps back to Christ now and set your mind on the things above so that you can have eternal rest.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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