

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 37

## Chapter 3, verse 18-19: Enemies of the Cross of Christ

2 January 2023

### Miscellaneous notes:

**3:13** “**This one thing I do.**” It is better to do ONE thing than to attempt 50 things. Devote your time and energy to doing the thing that God has given you to do, and you will have a greater possibility of success.

**Psalms 27:4** “**One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after...**”

**Luke 10:42** When Martha was troubled about many things, Jesus said, “**One thing is needful...**”

**3:13** “**Forgetting those things which are behind.**” Before stating these words, Paul had just listed many things about himself from his former life. It is not possible to erase your memory. When Paul says, “**Forget those things,**” he is telling us not to be bothered or negatively affected by our past.

**3:14** “**I press toward the mark...**” Having a goal that you aim for helps you to keep going.

### ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST 3:18-19

“**Many walk...they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.**” If you do your best to live your life according to the word of God, be prepared to face MANY enemies.

- Your enemies should not be Bible-preaching Christians.
- If you “**walk**” in the right way, your enemies will be Bible-rejecting religious people.
  - These enemies will claim to believe the Bible and preach the Bible. They just don’t preach ALL the Bible, and they’ll hate anybody who does, criticizing them for being “*negative*.” These are people who oppose what they claim to believe.

“**...of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping!**” Paul spoke out against false teachers OFTEN. He didn’t do it for pleasure; he’s weeping! He did it because it is necessary in a world that opposes God. If you stand for God’s truth, you must often speak out against the enemies of God’s truth.

- Who are your enemies? Those who tell you that you can walk contrary to the word of God and the will of God and still be a Christian.

**The key to this statement about the enemies of the cross:** this letter to the Philippians shows us that Jesus’ death on the cross was the end result of His complete and total self-denial for the benefit of others. We are told to follow the example of those who are following Jesus by denying self for others.

- Any preacher who tells you Jesus wants to make you rich or powerful, and they preach self-love, self-exaltation, self-service, and self-glorification, they are an enemy of the cross.
  - The life that Jesus lived didn’t bring him to riches and fame. It brought Him to the cross.

“**Whose end is destruction.**” Either the false teachers will be destroyed or those who follow them will.

“**Whose God is their belly.**” These are “prosperity preachers” who focus on material, temporal things. They are not spiritually minded. They give no thought to eternal matters.

“**...and whose glory is in their shame!**” The things they promote are shameful (self-exaltation, self-promotion, etc.), but they glory in them. God is the only one worthy of glory, but their practices often rob God of glory belonging only to Him.

“**...who mind earthly things.**” These enemies are easy to identify. Their mind is always on temporal, earthly, material prosperity. We are warned to stay away from them. They are enemies of the cross of Christ.