

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 26-27, 2002

Dale Whitehead

"The Heavenly Processional"

Philippians 3:17-4:1

What can we learn about the heavenly processional from Philippians 3:17-4:1?

We are commanded to follow those who by the way they are living demonstrate they are in the heavenly procession (Philippians 3:17).

We are warned that many professing Christians are enemies of the cross of Christ and not in the heavenly procession (Philippians 3:18-19).

An important word to consider is the word "walk." The enemies are not identified in that way because of their doctrine but because of their behavior.

They have not intellectually rejected or corrupted the message of the cross they simply have not embraced the message of the cross by faith and received a new focus.

The "enemies of the cross of Christ" in Philippians 3:18 are professing Christians who are not walking according to the pattern of the apostle and his associates.

Paul saw the enemies of the cross of Christ as a cancer that threatened people that he loved and it moved him to tears.

Paul's command is to help us line up behind someone in the heavenly procession. Paul's warning is to help us not to line up behind someone in the procession of the damned.

To help us understand the enemies of the cross of Christ, they are described for us in four very short expressions in Philippians 3:19.

The enemies of the cross of Christ are described as those whose end is destruction.

Paul consistently uses the word "destruction" (APOLLUM) to refer to "eternal destruction" (Philippians 1:27-28).

The enemies of the cross of Christ are described as those whose god is their appetite.

The word appetite (KOILA) literally means cavity or hollow and is used to describe the "belly" or "stomach."

Some people interpreting this verse understand the word "appetite" in a narrow sense of referring to gluttony.

God discourages gluttony (Proverbs 23:20). Gluttony is described as simply an excess in eating.

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The context of the word "appetite" must be understood in its broader sense to refer to people ruled by fleshly impulses in general (Galatians 5:19-21).

Our minds, which are being renewed by the spirit of God through His word, can reject sinful fleshly impulses (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

The enemies of the cross of Christ are described as those whose glory is in their shame.

The word "glory" (DOXA) refers to the outward manifestation of the essence of a person or thing and is not always associated with God, Christ or heaven (1 Corinthians 15:39-41).

The outward manifestation of the essence of the enemies of Christ is not very wondrous or magnificent; in fact is described as their shame.

The enemies of the cross of Christ are described as those who set their minds on earthly things.

Paul is saying that all their values and cherished goals are tied to this world rather than the world to come.

Are you in the heavenly procession or the procession of the damned?