

The Enemy

Just who is our enemy?

As we saw in an earlier mini-study, while God's love is available for everybody, not everybody possesses God's love. (If that doesn't make sense, read the mini-study on the "*The Love of God Lie*."

There is still an enemy out there... and do you, as I did, ever wonder what Paul says about those enemies?

Of course I can read what the OT says about the enemy then – and I can read what the gospels say about the enemy during the gospel days – and I even can know what the tribulation books (**Hebrews** – **Jude**) say about the enemy in the future.

But today... what does Paul say to us about the enemy?

After all, we are told that we are to follow Paul – not imitate – but to follow! *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*. And since Paul met with the risen Christ face to face and was given the New Testament to teach to us Gentiles today (See **Hebrews 9:16,17**)... let's learn what Paul DOES say about the enemy.

Remember, WE were enemies at one time:

Colossians 1:21 - *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.*

Ephesians 2:1-3 - *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Romans 5:10 - *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Who is/are the enemy?

- There is an enemy that is still God's people – the Jews! We are not God's chosen people. We are the ones who have chosen God! **Romans 11:28** - *As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.*
- Those that oppose Paul's teachings – they are the enemies of the cross of Christ! **Philippians 3:17-21** - *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (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.) They have a different lifestyle than we have! They do not have the hope, the assurance, the joy, the understanding that we have! **For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.***

It seems anyone looking for the coming of Christ today are instead being prepped by the sermons and teachings of today's pastors and preachers for the coming of the anti-christ instead.

- Those that pervert the right ways of the Lord! **Acts 13:10 - And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?**

How should we treat the enemy?

Romans 12:20 - Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. But we are never told to 'love' them with an unconditional love, etc.

When he had to, when Paul was pushed into a corner, he did not mince his words: **Acts 13:10 - And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?**

Our enemies are His enemies and He will take care of them eventually!

I Corinthians 15:25 - For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

I Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

II Thessalonians 1:6-10 - Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

What about the brethren who continue to 'not walk' and according to Paul's manner of life?

See **II Thessalonians 3:6-15**

Read these verses slowly and take special note and pause of my underlined words as they bring out the important facts about the ‘brethren’ when they don’t walk according to Paul.

Keep in mind, Paul’s walk is not a list of do’s and don’ts! Paul’s teachings is NOT the LAW. ***For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4***

Remember that along with the do’s and don’ts, there is an attitude, an attempt, a desire, a lack of judgment towards others, forgiveness, etc. that go hand in hand with following Paul.

Also, keep in mind **Romans 7:14-25**. Paul struggled with his walk as do you and me.

However, when it comes to noting and marking those we should or should not ‘hang around’, Paul is clear in this matter. It is still up to us when we make this decision – just be sure you know it is the right thing to do and when it is the right time.

And lastly, remember, the ‘brethren’ are not our enemy! (*however, they sure are quick to make us their enemy, aren’t they!*)

6 - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 - For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 - Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 - Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 - For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 - For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 - Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 - But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 - And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 - Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

WE are THEIR enemy!

Many of you – actually, ALL of you, who have tried to not only “say” but also “be” a witness to the KJB, the teachings of the RISEN Saviour through Paul Only along with at least trying to

adjust your daily life to Paul's manner of life, etc. learned right away that we quickly become THEIR enemy! **Galatians 4:16** - *Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*

Conclusion:

While those are some of the individual enemies that we run across daily, we must ALWAYS remember our war is not with them. *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:10-12+.*

(bonus thought: we also know that **I Peter 5:8** is NOT referring to today. The devil does NOT *walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*, etc. soon, but not yet!

If you want to know his work, then start with **Isaiah 14:12-17**. He is still in the process of trying to *be like the most High* in the minds and hearts of people who are following his religions closer and closer.

Paul warns us about the wiles of the devil: Ephesians 6:11 - *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

II Corinthians 11:1-4 - *Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

Galatians 1:6-9 - *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

We should take heed to the very words of the risen Christ through Paul and our 1611 KJB – words that are directed to you and me today! According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. I Corinthians 3:10