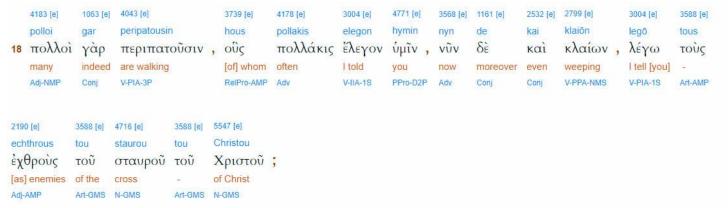
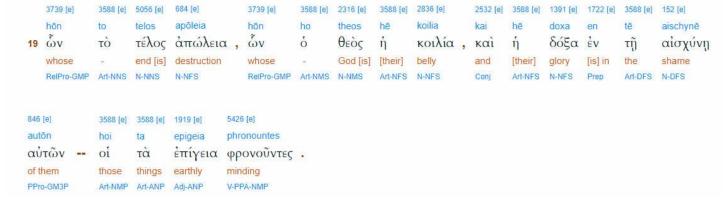
Philippians 3:18-4:3

Philippians 3:18 – "For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ."



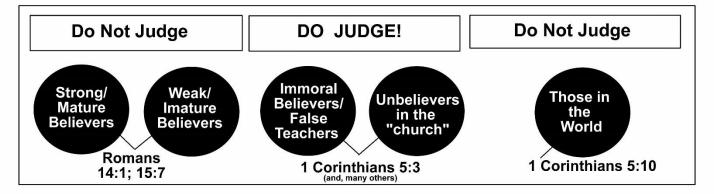
- Paul now identifies those who they should identify and NOT imitate right after having told the Philippians to follow:
 - o Christ's example
 - Paul's example
 - The example of other like-minded Philippians "take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you"
- There is no clear identification of who these "enemies" are
- These "enemies of the cross" could be legalist who follow a Jewish Law or some form of ascetics, but as Paul continues they seem to be immoral or living as libertines.
- Paul says he had previously warned the Philippians of these type of people.
- These "enemies" may not have had a foothold in the Philippian church, but Paul was warning the Philippians that this type of person could develop due to poor doctrine or appear from some other place.
- These "enemies" are NOT the world, unbelievers or Pagans. These "enemies" are people who have entered the church (maybe not the Philippians church yet, but there are plenty of examples in Scripture of them having entered, and even taken over) other churches.
- The use of the word *peripatousin*, "are walking" would seem to take a Christian expression (used in 3:17) of life style ("walking") and describe a false, improper and worldly way of "walking" out the Christian life.
- This may have been a problem that Paul was recognizing symptoms as the early signs of this disease.

Philippians 3:19 – "Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things."



- Paul describes them in four statements:
 - o "Their end is destruction" -

- The ultimate destiny of such people is destruction.
- 1 Timothy 5:24 "The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them."
- "destruction" is apoleia in the Greek and is the same word used in Philippians 1:28 to identify the destiny of the persecutors of the church.
- o "Their god is their belly" -
 - Romans 16:18 "For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."
 - "stomach" or "belly" is from the Greek word koilia (pronounced: koy-lee'-ah) which is the same as the noun in Roman 16:18.
 - **Koilia** definition: belly, abdomen, heart, a general term covering any organ in the abdomen, e.g. stomach, womb; met: the inner man.
 - Translated as: appetitie, belly, innermost being, stomach, womb
 - 1 Corinthians 6:13 "food is for the stomach (koilia), and the stomach (koilia) is for food", was a Corinthian quote (philosophy) that they used to justify sexual immorality. But, Paul says that the body is more than a physical, fleshly object that is separate from the spiritual life.
 - The focus of the word "koilia" is on the human appetite.
 - Euripides (Athens, play writer, 480-406 BC) uses a phrase that Paul may be referencing here: "I offer sacrifice to no god but myself, and to this belly of mine, the greatest of divinities."
- "Their glory is in their shame"
 - Oxymoron glory/shame
 - 1 Corinthians 5:2-6 where the permissive behavior of the church was even rejected by the lost world. 1 Cor. 5:6 indicates these Corinthian church members were "boasting" in their freedom/shame/tolerance/guilt-free-conscious.
 - 200 AD Hippolytus refutes a church sect called Simonians who "actually congratulate themselves on their promiscuity, because that is what they say is meant by perfect love."
 - Jude 13 where false teachers "wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever."
 - Ephesians 4:14 wind and waves are false teaching based on earthly thinking
- "Their minds is set on earthly things"
 - Paul identifies these church people's problem: the mind and what it is focused on
 - These "enemies" did not have the mind of Christ and did not have their minds renewed.
 - These "enemies" still had their minds set on earthly things.
 - Paul tells those in Christ, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Colossians 3:1-2)



Philippians 3:20 – "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"



Philippians 3:21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

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Philippians 4:1 – "Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved."

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Philippians 4:2 – "I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord."

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Philippians 4:3 "Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored[c] side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

