

Reflections

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A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE

www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

Enemies Of The Cross

By Jeremy D. Joy

In The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), after sowing "good seed in his field" (v 24), the farmer's enemies "sowed tares" (v 25), which sprouted with the wheat. The farmer's servants informed him saying, "Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field" (v 27)? The farmer replied, "An enemy has done this" (v 28).

**We are involved
in a battle for
the hearts
and minds of
men and women.**

Paul also warned about enemies: "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 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 set their mind on earthly things" (Philippians 3:17-19). There are enemies of the cross, but who are enemies of the cross?

The term "cross" is used in three senses in the New Testament: historically in reference to the cross upon which Jesus died (John 19:17-18), metaphorically with regard to the cross disciples must bear



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and
contemplate Your ways.
— Psalm 119:18**

(Matthew 16:24), and theologically which involves the message of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18). The "enemies of the cross" in the theological sense are individuals who oppose its message and teach otherwise.

First century Christians faced "enemies of the cross" including false doctrine and immorality, both of which threatened the churches of Galatia. Paul warned them about some who would "pervert the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6-7) and instructed the Galatians to "let [them] be accursed" (vv 8-9). The Bible is full of similar warnings! "Enemies of the cross" deceitfully appear as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:13-14) and "ministers of righteousness" (v 15), but "inwardly they

Reflections

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ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15). "Enemies of the cross" are characterized by selfish and dishonest motives (read carefully Philippians 3:19). The "shame" in which they "glory" could be translated "dishonesty." In contrast, the true preacher of the cross has "renounced the hidden things of shame" (2 Corinthians 4:1-2), not glorying in dishonest and deceitful motives.

The fate of "enemies of the cross" is described at the conclusion of The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares: "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather

the wheat into my barn' " (Matthew 13:30). We must be sure that we are on the right side!

We face "enemies of the cross" today. We are involved in a battle for the hearts and minds of men and women. It is spiritual, not physical, involving "casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:5). There are philosophies that dethrone God and enthrone man in the place of God leading to various forms of immorality. They are enemies of the cross! We must love the sinner, but we cannot be silent when "enemies of the cross" undermine the

Pine Street News And Notes

"Let brotherly love continue" — Hebrews 13:1

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Howard Smith** is home and improving.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Love Postlethwait's** brother-in-law, **Blane Morris**, has lung cancer...**Crystal Shockley's** grandmother, **Dorothy Myers**, is improving.

We express our deepest sympathy to **Janet Webber** upon the passing of her mother-in-law, **Florence Webber**.

Ella Kimble is out of town visiting her son. Please pray for her safe return.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Training Class last Sunday, especially **Paul Shockley** for his sermon on the tongue.

Preaching reports from **Kent Clark** and **Daniel Ruegg** are posted on the bulletin

board.

Please check the bulletin board for Gospel Meetings throughout the Ohio Valley.

Copies of the new worship schedule are on the small table in the foyer.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting will be September 21-26 with **Danny McKibben**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Gabe, **Adam**, and **Ethan Koontz** are attending college. Their addresses and phone numbers are posted on the bulletin board. Perhaps you could send them a card during the semester to encourage them.

Jeremy will be answering questions from "The Question Box" this evening.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:153-160.