

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Enemies of The Cross of Christ

Week of November 1, 2020 A.D.

John Stott has stated, "The kingdom of Satan retreats only as the kingdom of God advances." Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read Philippians 3:17-21

1. Refer to verse 17. Does God hold all Christians accountable to "live according to the pattern" which is taught by Paul, Jesus, and the other writers of the Bible? If not, why not? If so, why? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. All Christians are "brothers" and "sisters" to one another. With that in mind, how well do biological brothers and sisters know each other's habits, preferences, and lifestyles? As Christians, are we to set an example for the proper beliefs and behaviors of each other? If so, should that example always include: sharing the gospel? serving in your church family? being in a small group Bible study? attending Sunday church services? and daily prayer and Bible study? Please explain the reason for each of your answers.
3. In verses 18 and 19, is Paul talking about believers or unbelievers in Christ? Can a member of the Christian church "live as an enemy of the cross of Christ"? If so, how? If not, why not? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
4. Please explain the meaning of verse 19. Are there such people in (a) the American culture at large? and (b) in the American church? Will the people who are described in verse 19 go to heaven or to hell? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
5. Refer to verse 20. In your opinion, does the typical American Christian eagerly await the second coming of Christ? Please describe how you and your Christian friends acknowledge Jesus as (a) Savior and (b) Lord? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
6. Please describe how you "eagerly await" the appearance of Christ for his church? At the current time, is everything in heaven and on earth "under the control" of Jesus? On any given day, as a general rule, are your thoughts and actions focused primarily on (a) earthly things or (b) your citizenship in heaven? Please explain your answers.

7. Americans live in a democratic republic in which we have the privilege to elect our government officials. Does God expect American Christians to (a) vote in every election, (b) vote in accordance with their self-interest in “earthly things”, and (c) vote for those persons who will best promote and preserve the freedom to teach and follow the way, truth, and life of Jesus Christ? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Matthew 10:16

8. Does Jesus expect us to be aware of the lies and deceptions which are created and taught by our culture? Can a person “be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves” without having a thorough knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Bible? Can a person obey verse 16 if that person is not committed to earnestly seek and discover both the truth of God and the lies of the culture? Please explain your answers.

Read 1 John 3:7-10

9. Must a person be righteous in the eyes of the God in order to (a) receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? (b) follow Christ? and (c) enter the kingdom of heaven? Please explain your answers.
10. According to verse 8, for what reason did Jesus come to earth as a man? Has Jesus already “destroyed the devil’s work”? Is it God-honoring for a child of God to vote for an elected government official who does not oppose abortion and/or does not support the teachings of biblical morality? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 16:13-20

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Planet earth is a battlefield – it is not a playground. The church exists for the primary purpose of destroying the power and the kingdom of the devil.”
12. Can the citizens of the United States of America survive as free and independent people without having Christians in control of all three branches of the federal government? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Consider: America has rejected Jesus as the God of our nation. Therefore, the only hope for the survival of America as an independent nation is for the church to repent, to focus on Christ and His kingdom, to storm the gates of hell, and to reclaim those realms of our culture which the church has allowed Satan to steal from us. “You think about that.” Amen.