

Philippians 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Analysis

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things (ὧν τὸ τέλος ἀπώλεια, ὃν ὁ θεὸς ἡ κοιλία καὶ ἡ δόξα ἐν τῇ αἰσχύνῃ αὐτῶν, οἱ τὰ ἐπίγεια φρονοῦντες, hōn to telos apōleia, hōn ho theos hē koilia kai hē doxa en tē aischynē autōn, hoi ta epigeia phronountes)—Four characteristics of cross-enemies:

1. Telos apōleia ("end is destruction")—eternal judgment awaits.
2. Ho theos hē koilia ("god is belly")—appetite rules them (whether food, sensuality, or comfort).
3. Doxa en tē aischynē ("glory in shame")—they boast in shameful things (possibly circumcision, v. 2).
4. Ta epigeia phronountes ("minding earthly things")—phroneō ("set mind on") earthly versus heavenly.

This likely describes legalists whose religion is external, earthly, ritualistic—not Spirit-born transformation.

Historical Context

Identifying these opponents is debated. If Judaizers: 'belly' may refer to dietary laws they insisted on; 'glory in shame' to circumcision (which Paul called 'concision,' v. 2); 'earthly things' to external rituals versus spiritual reality. Alternatively, if libertines: 'belly' is sensuality; 'glory in shame' is immoral

boasting; 'earthly things' is worldliness. Context (ch. 3's polemic against Judaizers) suggests former. Their externalism opposed cross-wrought internal transformation.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to have 'belly as god'—what appetites or comforts might rule you?
2. How do religious people 'glory in their shame'—boasting in external observances versus Christ?
3. What is the difference between 'minding earthly things' and legitimate earthly stewardship?

Interlinear Text

ὧν	τὰ	τέλος	ἀπώλεια	ὧν	τὰ	θεὸς	τὰ	κοιλία
Whose	who	end	is destruction	Whose	who	God	who	is their belly
G3739	G3588	G5056	G684	G3739	G3588	G2316	G3588	G2836
καὶ	τὰ	δόξα	ἐν	τὰ	αἰσχύνη	αὐτῶν	τὰ	τὰ
and	who	whose glory	is in	who	shame	their	who	who
G2532	G3588	G1391	G1722	G3588	G152	G846	G3588	G3588
ἐπίγεια		φρονοῦντες						
earthly things		mind						
G1919		G5426						

Additional Cross-References

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

2 Peter 2:3 (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Colossians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2 Peter 2:1 (Parallel theme): But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Corinthians 11:12 (Glory): But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

2 Corinthians 11:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2 Peter 2:13 (Parallel theme): And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

Galatians 6:13 (Glory): For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Hosea 4:7 (Glory): As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

Psalms 17:14 (Parallel theme): From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

