

Philippians: To live is Christ.

Session 14: Enemies of the Cross (Phil. 3:17-4:1)

Scriptures: Phil. 3:17 – 4:1; Rom. 6:1, 15; Isaiah 5:20; 1 Cor. 5:2; 2 Cor. 5:1; Matt. 6:33; Rev. 21:3;

1. In which ways, according to Steve, is the Christian life a bit like walking on a high mountain ridge with a drop on each side? What two words did he use to describe these 'deep drops'? What do these terms mean?
2. In which way were the Judaisers "enemies of the Cross"? (3:1-11). In which way were this other group mentions also 'enemies of the Cross'? (3:17-19).
3. What did Steve mean when he said: 'We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone'?
4. Paul's rather harsh words in 3:18-19 were given "even with tears." What might be a lesson for us all? When was the last time you wept over a 'fallen' believer?
5. In which ways are the phrases (i) "their god is their stomach" (ii) "glory is in their shame" (iii) "mind on earthly things"(all v19) good descriptions of contemporary society?
6. Why were Paul's words in v20-21 so poignant for the Philippian Christians?
7. 'The best use of your life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. Thoughts?
8. Play the song, *Jesus, All for Jesus*, and respond to this teaching with a time of prayer.