

5. IF CHRIST BE PROCLAIMED, WE MUST REJOICE: Philippians 1:15-18a

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, June 28th, 2020

Theme: “There are godly and ungodly motives within the human heart when the true gospel is proclaimed. Yet, if Christ be proclaimed truly, we must rejoice fully.”

I. SOME PREACH CHRIST FROM ENVY AND RIVALRY—SELFISH AMBITION

PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18a 15 Some indeed **preach** Christ from **envy** and **rivalry**, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, *knowing* that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former **proclaim** Christ out of **selfish ambition**, not **sincerely** but *thinking* to **afflict me in my imprisonment**. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in **pretense** or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Preach = *kēryssō* (62x)

- MEANING: to herald (as a public crier); proclaim; announce; publish.
- CF: **Matthew 3:1** (John the Baptist). **Matthew 4:17** (Jesus).

Envy = *phthonos* (9x)

- MEANING: ill-will; jealousy.
- CF: **Matthew 27:18** “For [Jesus] knew that because of **envy** they had handed Him over.” **Gal. 5:21** “**envy**” is a work of the flesh.

Rivalry = *eris* (9x)

- MEANING: (it’s used in an *accusative* way) quarrel; strife; conflict; wrangling; contention; debate.
- CF: **Romans 1:29** “**strife**” is a work done by an idolater who has been handed over by God to their idolatry. **Gal. 5:20** “**strife**” is also a work of the flesh.

Proclaim = *katangellō* (24x)

- MEANING: proclaim (less formal than the word “*kēryssō*” which was used in verse 15). Usually the word is used by those who oppose Christianity when they are describing the Apostles’ preaching.
- CF: **Acts. 4:2** “being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and **proclaiming** in Jesus the resurrection from the dead..”

Selfish Ambition = *eritheia* (11x)

- MEANING: “electioneering or intriguing for office; a desire to put one’s self forward.”
- CF: **Romans 2:7-8** “to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; **8** but for those who are **self-seeking** and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.” **Philippians 2:3** “Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

(Not) Sincerely = *hagnōs* (1x)

- MEANING: “not from pure motives; not honestly; not upright; not honorably.”
- CF: **Philippians 1:9** “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** (tested by sunlight) and blameless for the day of Christ...”

Afflict = *thlipsis* (45x)

- MEANING: “pressure; anguish; burdened; tribulation.”
- CF: **Jn16:33** “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Pretense = *prophasis* (9x)

- MEANING: “an outward showing; cloke; for show.”
- CF: **Mark 12:38-40** “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces **39** and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **40** who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

II. SOME PREACH CHRIST FROM GOOD WILL—LOVE

PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18a 15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from **good will**. 16 The latter do it out of **love**, *knowing* (by faith) that I am **put here** for the **defense** (*Phil.1:7*) of the **gospel**. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in **truth**, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Good Will = *eudokia* (13x)

- MEANING: (prompted by) delight, kindness, or well wishes.
- CF: **Rom. 10:1** “Brothers, my **heart’s desire** and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” **Eph. 1:5** “[God] predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the **purpose** of his will...” Phil. 2:13 “it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his **good pleasure**.”

Put here = *keimai* (24x)

- MEANING: to lie outstretched; to be appointed, laid up, set (by God’s intent). Properly, of an infant.
- CF: **Matt. 5:14** “You are the light of the world. A city **set** on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- **Andrew R. Fausset**: “Their thought was, that taking the opportunity of my being laid aside, they would exalt themselves by their...preaching, and depreciate me and my preaching, and so cause me trouble of spirit in my bonds; they thought that I, like themselves, sought my own glory, and so would be mortified at their success over mine. But they are utterly mistaken; “I rejoice” at it (Php 1:18), so far am I from being troubled at it.”

1. You can believe and preach every doctrine perfectly and still be full of vices—still be in sin!

- Getting the gospel right is a necessary condition for faithfulness but it is not the only condition! We must also get the motives right. Our motives must be good-will and love, not envy or rivalry or selfish ambition!
- You can prescribe the correct medicine and still be a selfish doctor, seeking your glory rather than others good. In short, to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ you must tell the gospel boldly not for your good but for others good; not for your glory but for God’s glory!

II. You can be as loving and sincere as an angel & still be cursed by God if you get the gospel wrong!

- **GAL. 1:8-9** “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”
- You can lovingly and sincerely feed people poison, and they will still die. You can sincerely drink poison yourself, and your end will be the same—**anathema**. Your motives do not matter if the medicine you are drinking & giving out is in fact something that will cause damnation!

III. If Christ be proclaimed truly, we must rejoice fully!

IV. If you treasure Jesus, you will not care about your own reputation because you are too concerned with His!

VERSE 15

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Love = *agape*

Put here = *keimai* (24x)

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