



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Rejoicing in the Proclamation

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed. (Php 1:15-18 NASB)

“Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.”(1:15-17)

Preaching Christ. Paul shares that the gospel and Christ were being preached by the brethren many times with different motives. Some are preaching the gospel and Christ with impure motives, which including envy or jealousy and strife or rivalry. However, some are preaching the gospel and Christ with pure motives, from good will and out of love. Those that were preaching with pure motives were doing it supporting Paul.

However, those with impure motives were doing it in spite of Paul and with selfish and self centered ambition in an attempt to discredit and upset Paul while he was in prison.

Do these motives still exist today?

How would you recognize each?

How did Paul respond?

“What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,”(1:18)

Christ is proclaimed. Paul rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed whether the motives were impure and out of selfish ambition or pure and out of love and good will. Again, Paul’s joy was not tied to his circumstances and he attempted to live above his circumstances with his joy found in Christ.

It’s been said that the power is in what’s being preached and not in the preacher. Paul didn’t care who got the credit when it came proclamation of the gospel, he just rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed.

For your consideration:

- Is your joy tied to your circumstance?
- Are you proclaiming the gospel to your community?
- Do you rejoice when Christ is proclaimed?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44