

Philippians 1:15-18

Gospel Motives

Odd motives ...

I. Preaching Christ

A. What is it?

B. Why it's Done Love

II. Distorted Motives

Rivalry & Spite

Etc.

III. Despite Ourselves

Christ is Preached

A Cause for Rejoicing

... even so.

Children, Listen ...

1. When someone is "preaching (Jesus) Christ," what are they telling people about Him?

2. Does every preacher preach for the right reasons?

3. Why is it very, very important to pray for pastors?

4. Some people were trying to make life difficult for Paul. Why didn't that bother him?

Say What, Paul!?

Paul's response to the bad preachers may seem a little surprising on the surface, especially if you are someone who believes the pulpit should be guarded doggedly by the truth of God's Word. The apostle can actually be quite righteously harsh with false teachers at times, but this situation is different. In an odd way what Paul is addressing is less damaging, but almost more disturbing in contrast with the problem of heretics. These men were apparently sound in the doctrine of Christ, but their motives were malicious. The Word they preached could still be affective despite their corruption because it was still the truth – yet their intentions were evil. How aggravating is that!? Strangely, Paul seems to take it in stride, but make no mistake, he is not cavalier about it. Their rivalry was with him, but Paul knew that, after all, it was not about him but about Jesus. Christ was being preached and that's all he needed to know. Because he knew that, he not rejoiced in the work of the Lord over it, he vowed to continue to do so.