

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 31st July 2022 Hymns Psalm 96v1-7, Tune 58m 286, 215, 231 Read: Philippians 1:12-18 Text Philippians 1:15-18

Series: Philippians (25) Title: Paul Clarifies, Compares and Cheers that Christ is preached (1)

When Paul was imprisoned for preaching the gospel, the believers at Philippi could not see how the gospel would spread further in Rome.

It was hard to see what good would come from Paul being in prison.

Therefore, in his letter Paul writes ***I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;***

Paul's jail became an office, a pulpit, for the furtherance of the gospel. The place of chains became a place of counselling.

God in His sovereign control and perfect wisdom had overruled. He took what was against Paul's desire to see the gospel spread and turned out it around for the actual spreading of the gospel.

God was in full control. He knows what He is doing, He acts according to His purpose. He does whatsoever He pleases.

By Paul's bonds, hardened, and religious sinners in the most unlikely place heard those things concerning Christ.

Paul ***expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.***

Paul preached Christ in all the scriptures.

Paul may have been bound physically, yet vocally he could make Christ known.

Even in a city, and culture, with religious creeds and among ungodly company, Paul didn't hold back, rather he presented Christ crucified and Christ resurrected.

some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

So it is believer in serving God, your ministry may adapt with your situation. You may be bound to bed, or chair due to health reasons. Or limited to the boundary of the house.

You may be bound to certain duties, responsibilities, which are needful, such as employment, and education.

But these can become an office to share the gospel, to encourage others, and live out the gospel.

In Rome, **as the gospel spread among sinners, at the same time, the gospel strengthened believers.**

Verse 14, ***And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*** Paul's imprisoned for the gospel, was a help to encourage fearing believers.

They could now share the gospel with courage, they communicated the message of saving grace and redeeming blood without fear.

However, believers who were empowered, and encouraged in their gospel stand, and spreading the gospel were now divided into two groups

From **verses 15-18** some supported Paul by preaching Christ to work with him in his calling, **whereas** there were some who troubled Paul by preaching Christ to get at him.

Some who helped Paul in defending the gospel, and some who hindered Paul in distressing him.

It will be seen upon examination, that **the main issue at hand dealt with the motives for preaching Christ.**

Why were they preaching Christ, what was their motive?

Some preached Christ out of selfish ambition whereas some from pure motives. Some for Christ's glory and some for their own glory.

Between **verses 15-18** are two groups of believers who have the same message preaching Christ in all His truth, but they have different motives for preaching Christ.

That's why over the next two Sundays, God willing we will consider, Paul Clarifies, compares and cheers that Christ is preached.

But today I only want to focus today upon the first point of Clarification.

I FIRST PAUL CLARIFIES THAT CHRIST IS PREACHED

Apart from all that is said in **verses 15-18**, Paul clarifies that Christ is preached.

You see the two groups in view or the two groups who preach Christ do so, according to truth.

That's makes this portion and these words challenging, and heart breaking.

Off course there were other occasions when Paul wrote to the churches, where Christ was preached in error, another gospel was presented.

For instance, Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 11:4** ***he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached...*** he speaks of another gospel, or in **Galatians 1:9** ***... if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

Paul addresses the fact that some preach Christ falsely. They tamper with the gospel.

It is for this reason, when Paul writes the words of **Philippians 1:15-18** he clarifies that some believers who support him and even some believers who trouble actually preach Christ in truth.

There are observations that Paul clarifies.

1 Firstly Notice Paul clarifies the Manner in which Christ is preached.

Paul uses two different words to describe preaching Christ.

Verse 14 speak the word, Verse 15 preach Christ, verse 16 preach Christ, and verse 18 Christ is preached;

The word **speak** in **verse 14 means to communicate the word by conversation**, the idea is speaking the gospel one to one, or a small surrounding, close proximity.

The word **preach** in **verse 15** is the word meaning **to herald out the gospel**. Preaching in the pulpit, open air. The original word reads **proclaiming Christ**.

Whereas the word **preach** in **verse 16** and the word **preached** in **verse 18** are the same Greek word meaning **to announce**, the original reading is **Christ is announced**.

Now overall all words refer to the same task it is to share the gospel, to make Christ known.

The word **preach** in **verse 15** is the word meaning **to herald out the gospel**. It is to proclaim publicly or to herald or act as a public crier.

In days of old, an official of the Sovereign, the King, Emperor, or Ruler would come before the King and publicly herald loudly the news the King is coming. His message came with Sovereign's

authority. He was to prepare and make ready people for the coming King. It was done for all to hear.

Paul is making the point, clarifying the two groups who preach Christ, proclaiming Christ publicly are doing so faithfully and truthfully. They are preparing a people for the coming Sovereign.

It is interesting to note this same word preach and its meaning proclaiming Christ is used in the ministry of John the Baptist, remember **John 1:6** *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John... verse 15 "John bare witness of him..."*

Matthew 3:1 *"in those days came John the Baptist, preaching (proclaiming, heralding), in the wilderness of Judaea."*

Who and what was he preaching, heralding forth.

Notice, the same word in **Mark 1:7** *"And preached, (Proclaimed) saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose."*

John is the herald, coming before, preparing a people for the coming of Christ.

John 1:29 *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

Believer, Christ the King is coming, go before Him and tell others to be ready.

(Remember the man who was possessed, controlled by the devil, until Christ set him free.)

*(We read in **Mark 5:20** **And so it is in the gospel, we are** And he departed, and began to publish (proclaim) in Decapolis*

how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.”)

But also, the word **preach** in **verse 16** and the word **preached** in **verse 18** are the same Greek word meaning **to announce**, the original reading is **Christ is announced**.

First used in **Acts 4:2** **“they taught the people, and preached (announced) through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**

This is certainly a word for preachers, but also for all believers to public proclaim Christ, announce Him to family, friends and to all who ask of the hope within, telling what things Jesus hath done for you in saving, keeping, providing, and guiding you.

Paul clarifies both groups even those who cause him distress are not preaching another Jesus.

They are not heralding out another gospel. They are not preparing a new way, announcing a new Saviour.

Rather, in the same manner as Paul they preach Christ.

Men and woman as we go into London, and further a field, proclaim, announce, Christ’s redemption, resurrection, representation, and return, for the sinners salvation & believers comfort.

Paul having clarified the manner in which Christ preached.

2 secondly Notice, Paul clarifies The message that Christ is preached

Verse 14 speak the word Verse 15 preach Christ, verse 16 preach Christ, and verse 18 Christ is preached;

All these words belong together Paul stresses the message of the gospel is christ. Christ is the message.

We have touched upon this briefly; the message was Christ. Now we must understand to preach Christ is not only to mention Christ's name.

the message that Christ is preached, proclaims, and announces Him as an Exclusive saviour

This is Paul's point, some who are against him and some who are for him, but they both preach Christ as an exclusive Saviour, meaning there is only one Saviour for sinners.

(The gospel excludes all our other supposed saviours and ways of salvation and confines men and woman to Christ as the only Deliverer of the soul –)

Acts 4:12 “*Neither is there salvation in any other...there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.*”

The Gospel is exclusive of all other acclaimed ways of salvation because Christ is God's anointed, appointed and accepted Saviour.

Preach Christ in His Unique person, two distinct natures, in one person forever. He is man yet never ceased to be God. Christ is God manifest in the flesh. His humanity is a sinless humanity. He is the impeccable, absolute perfect Christ.

He died a substitutionary death, He took the place of guilty sinners, made accountable for their sins. He suffered the wrath of God the place of sinners He came to save.

As His humanity was sinless, then in the grave, His body experienced no corruption. He arose from the grave, ascended into heaven as our great High Priest where He prays for sinners yet to be saved who are within the covenant of grace.

Then one day He will return in glory and power to gather His loved ones home.

There is no other Saviour, only Christ is the redeemer of God's elect.

Put it all together preaching means preaching Him as the exclusive saviour.

the message that Christ is preached, proclaims, and announces Him as an Effective Saviour

the message is Christ has power to save and power to secure all He saves. There is deliverance from the power of sin, there is victory over the pleasures of sin.

Christ blood covers the sinner's sin and cleanses the saint's sin, because the blood has never lost its power.

You see the gospel is not only about Salvation for sinners, that is only part, the other part is Sanctification for saints.

The gospel shows there is in Christ all that the sinner needs for salvation, deliverance from unholiness.

But the gospel shows there is in Christ all that believer needs for sanctification, living unto holiness.

Christ delivers from uncleanness but directs forwards to holiness.

Christ delivers the guilty and guides the delivered.

He is an effective, an all sufficient Saviour.

Now I know not every message will have every single detail but there ought to be more than only mentioning the name of Christ.

In the message there must be some aspect at some point of Christ's sinless life and saving ministry. What He has done on earth, and is doing in heaven and yet to do in His return.

Back to the to the main point, Paul clarifies, the two groups but especially some who seek to cause Paul hurt, and belittle his ministry, they are preaching a full Christ, a complete Gospel.

Paul clarifies the manner and message that Christ is preached. Without Christ there is no message, no gospel, no good news for troubled sinners, no comfort for believers.

3 thirdly notice, Paul clarifies The motives in why Christ is preached.

Paul clarifies that the two groups had the same message and manner but different motives for preaching Christ.

Verse 15 *Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:*

In other words, they are doing right the wrong way. But it is never right to do wrong in order to do right.

They are preaching Christ for the wrong reason. To be the preacher, pastor taking a position or calling for wrong motives. They preach Christ but for their own cause.

What they are proclaiming is right, what people hear is good, **but why they are preaching and what people don't see, is their error.**

They are using Paul's jail sentence to advance their own cause, their own ministry. They were jealous that God was using Paul, even in prison. They couldn't see how or why God could use Paul's ministry.

To use an example, It would be like a church that is vacant awaiting on a minister, and within the vacant period, some other preacher or layman within decides, now is my time to shine, do what I want to do, get a following. Sadly this happens.

Or the preacher is absent, on holiday and a visiting preacher covers the pulpit and they take the opportunity to speak against

the preacher, promote their own cause, lead a rebellion, trying to get people to leave their own church and go to theirs.

Their message is sound, but their motives are for self.

Here is the question for us, when we preach Christ, when we tell others the gospel, we should point them to a faithful church ministry, in order to be added unto and identify with as in Acts, serving Christ, **what is the reason for not doing so?**

It is as Paul said ***The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:***

the word **contention** means ***self ambition, it is word to do with rivalry***, to canvass for self.

They wanted people to join them not Paul, their motives for preaching were to ***add affliction to my bonds:***

Believer when you share the gospel, direct the people to a Bible believing Church, where the message is Christ in all the scriptures. Let the name of the organisation perish, let the name of Christ be exalted.

Paul speaks in **verses 15 & 17** of some, who preach Christ of ***good will*** and ***of love***.

Let what motivates us in sharing the gospel be as Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:14** ***For the love of Christ constraineth us***; the word **constraineth** means ***to hold together, to sustain***

Let the love of Christ, that great, supreme, and sacrificing love be our spring board in going forward, and our diving board in launching forth.

May our motive be as Peter when He said **nevertheless at thy word**. Or as Christ He prayed concerning His redemptive motive in **John 17** to glorify God.

That's what held Paul together, sustained him in jail, when accused, mistreated, distressed and discouraged by some believers, it was the love of Christ and knowing that Christ is preached, that kept him going forward.