

Philippians 1:15-18

- 1) Paul identifies the mixed motives of evangelists—1:15-17
 - a) Motives evaluated—1:15
 - i) Sinful/flesh: ¹⁵ *Some, on the one hand, preach [kerusso] Christ even because of ...*
 - (1) *Envy [phthonos]*—desiring to deprive another of some presumed advantage
 - (2) *and rivalry [eris]*—an attitude of competition
 - (3) These are from the flesh. Cf. Galatians 5:20
 - (4) They apparently wanted to develop a following for themselves.
 - ii) Righteous/Spirit: *and, on the other hand, some because of ...*
 - (1) *good intention [eudokia]*—considering and choosing what is good
 - b) Motives explained—1:16-17
 - i) Sinful/flesh: ¹⁶ *The former proclaim [katangelo] Christ out of ...*
 - (1) *selfish ambition/self interest [eritheia]*—desire for some personal benefit; cf. 2:3; Galatians 5:20
 - (2) *not sincerely [hagnos]*—their motives had been corrupted
 - (3) *imagining [oiomai] they will inflict pressure in my imprisonment.*
 - ii) Righteous/Spirit: ¹⁷ *The latter do it out of ...*
 - (1) *Love [agape],*
 - (2) *knowing [oida] (as opposed to imagining) that I am placed here (by God) for the defense [apologia] of the gospel.*
 - (a) The Sovereign of the universe had assigned Paul to his present location.
 - c) The content of the preaching was the same, but the motives stood in stark contrast.
 - d) Some preach Christ with one eye on the gospel and another on others engaged in ministry, falling into the subtle but deadly trap of comparing the results. (Harmon)
- 2) Paul's response to the mixed motives of evangelists—1:18
 - a) ¹⁸ *What then? Only that in every way, ... Christ is being proclaimed [katangelo];*
 - i) Sinful/flesh motive: *whether in pretense [prophasis]*
 - (1) Using the name of Christ to cover or mask selfish motives. Deceptive appearances to hide their hypocrisy.
 - ii) Righteous/Spirit motive: *or in truth [aletheia] (reality as opposed to pretense)*
 - b) *and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.*
 - c) Paul was able to look past the personal attacks from these Christian preachers and see the larger picture of Christ being preached, even if it sprang from the wrong motives.
 - d) His attitude reflects that his ministry is not about him, but rather centers on the one he preaches about. (Harmon)
 - e) Somehow God blesses the grain of truth that is mixed in with error and bad motives. (Robertson)