

PAUL'S JOY THAT CHRIST IS PREACHED

Philippians 1:12-18 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

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.

Introduction

This is the second sermon from the Apostle Paul's epistle to the church at Philippi.

Last week, during the introduction to the book we saw that the Apostle Paul was filled with pride for the work of the church there.

We observed Paul's greeting, outlined what makes up a healthy church

1. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church is Remembered (v.3).
2. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church Is a Church Devoted to Prayer (v.4).
3. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church Has Joy (v.4).
4. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church Understands the Importance of Missions (v.5).
5. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church is Secure in the Salvation of the Lord (v.6).
6. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church Understands the Importance of Partnership in the Ministry (v.7-8).
7. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church is a Great Commission Church (v.9-10).
8. A Dynamic and Nourishing Church is a Church Showing the Fruit of Righteousness (v.11).

Today we turn to verses 12-18

KNOW THIS, THE WORLD IS WATCHING THE BRETHREN

Philippians 1:12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

After Paul's greeting and thanksgiving and prayer, it is time for Paul to reminisce about his own imprisonment at Rome. That imprisonment, he says, resulted in the advancement of the gospel. The prisoner proclaims freedom through the Gospel of Jesus Christ even while being imprisoned.

KNOW THIS, THE BRETHREN IS WATCHING THE BRETHREN

14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Paul's imprisonment had a life-changing influence on the believers in the Roman church. They saw his boldness, even knowing he was in great peril, and it emboldened them to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with great boldness.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

It is obvious that Paul knew that there were some that were sharing the gospel for all the wrong intentions while others were sharing the gospel were doing so with the proper motive.

16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

“appointed for the defense of the gospel” is a powerful statement from the Apostle. Paul was continuously on trial before men for the gospel that he preached from Hebrews, Gentiles, politicians, and religionists. Jewish Christians took him to task over his stand against adding the Jewish Law to the Gospel message. Here Paul is recognizing the wonderful work going on by those that he left behind to continue the Lord Jesus' work. He also recognized that there were those that rejected the message of Paul. Those teaching a perverted gospel were “preaching Christ from envy and rivalry.”

17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

“I” can get us into so much trouble. The problem we are seeing developed in today's society are those raised where the “I” is more important than others. This is a sickly society we live in today folks.

REJOICE IN THE GOSPEL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Paul declares such a strange thought concerning what he has addressed. Look at this verse for just a moment. Do you see it? Paul is not deterred by those that are preaching the Gospel out of selfish ambition, instead he acknowledges that the Gospel of Christ is being proclaimed and “In that I rejoice!”

Conclusion

- No matter what this world throughs at the Children of the Lord, we can find joy and an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Always know this, the world is watching the brethren. However, the brethren are also watching. Be a positive influence on both the world and the brethren.
- Rejoice in the Gospel my brothers and sisters. The Gospel brings a changed life, a forever life in the near future and an enlarging of the Kingdom of Heaven.

God be praised for every thought and word spoken about our Lord and Savior.