

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 11

Chapter 1, verses 15-18: Those Who Preach Christ with Wrong Motives

4 July 2022

There are men who preach Christ for the wrong reasons. God wants us to know how to deal with such matters.

Vs 15 “Some indeed preach Christ.” Many men are preaching another religion. We can be glad any time there are men preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of their heart motive.

“...even of envy.” This speaks of preachers who spend much of their time criticizing other preachers and trying to destroy their work, possibly because they have a bigger following (Act 13:45). The chief priests delivered Jesus to Pilate for envy (Mark 15:10). Joseph was sold to Egypt because his brothers were envious (Acts 7:9). Cain slew his brother for envy. Envy is a powerful, yet wrong, motivator.

“...and STRIFE.” Some preachers have a bitter, hateful attitude towards others who preach Christ. We must oppose false doctrines that endanger souls of men, but we don't have to be hateful. Keep your spirit under control.

“...and some also of good will.” These are preachers who want God's good will to be done. They want sinners to be saved. They want to help Christians in their walk.

Vs 16 “The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely.” These are preachers who like to contend, they like to raise their voice and holler, but they don't live according to what they preach.

“...supposing to add affliction to my bonds.” This speaks of professing Christians who side with the oppressive government against the Christians who are actively doing something for the Lord.

Vs 17 “...but the other of love.” Most saved people preach the gospel because they love the Lord, love God's people, and love the lost.

“...knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.” Those who preached Christ out of love, knew that Paul was **set** (unwavering) **for the defense of the gospel**.

Vs 18 “What then?” Considering the different types of preachers, whether they're fakers (“**in pretence**”) or they're sincere (“**in truth**”), Paul rejoices that Christ is preached.

THE EXAMPLE OF JONAH:

Jonah is a good example of an insincere preacher that God was able to use to preach the truth. Jonah did not want to preach to the people of Nineveh, but he did it anyway and the whole nation repented.

We can rejoice when a bad man preaches the truth and people get saved. Let God worry about judging the man's heart motive. Usually, we are not able to tell if a man is preaching Christ for the right reasons.