

TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-15 "The Gospel Is Preached"

09/27/2026

PHIL 1:15-18 "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.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18 As Paul is addressing his current situation in his Roman House Arrest, he wants them to understand the attempts to by some to add to his suffering. It's quite probable that the Philippians were experiencing similar situations. From the beginning of the Gospel the Devil has used the "weapon of division" by manipulating the message: Jesus, the Church in Jerusalem, the missionary Churches in Asia and Greece: all were attacked with this assault. How does Paul respond?

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

DON'T BE DISTRACTED

The weapon used against Paul, here, is division through "motive." Paul addresses the greater danger of division by "false doctrine" is some of his other Letters. But THIS divisive issue does NOT threaten the truth of the Gospel... only the motive behind the Message. I'm going to change the "order" of some of the verses so as to clarify the "2" motives and the attempt to divide.

FROM GOOD WILL

1:14) And most of the brothers, having become confident in the LORD by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the WORD without fear.

- *Having become confident... – the idea of trust that leads to action ...*
Paul's trust in Christ was "infectious" – they could stand-forth too!
- *Much more bold... – "tolmao" – courageous / daring – Like Paul and the soldiers to whom he was chained they would also be ready / willing to "enter the battle..."*

- *Without fear... – "Aphobos" – a fear that overcomes – crippling... Fearlessly – "Power [Dunamis] to be my Witnesses [Martyrs]"*

15b) "...[but others preach Christ] from good will."

16) "They [the latter] do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the GOSPEL."

- *Good will... – a gracious pursuit / goodness / benevolence – out of interest for others to have what they have...*
- *Out of love... – For Paul; for the other Believers; for The Gospel; for Christ...*

May be differences in is our "gracious benevolence" but not in motive...

Our message may "sound different" ...

We may employ different methods...

Our interest may lay in different groups or levels of society...

Our target "audience" may be local or distant...

BUT there is NO purpose of "Division"

FROM ENVY & STRIFE

15a) "Some indeed preach CHRIST from envy and rivalry..."

17) "They [the former] proclaim CHRIST out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment."

- *Envy... – Jealousy – to want control over what belongs to another*
- *Rivalry... – Strife – to rub against so to divide*
- *Selfish ambition... – a scheming desire to gain for yourself*

- They are motivated by Envy / Jealousy because of the message Paul preaches, and the following he has.
- They "raise-up" Strife regarding the sincerity of Paul's motives, and his imprisonment so as to divide and draw-away believers to themselves.
- They want a following of their own... and it is easier to take away from "Paul's Followers" than to gather NEW Believers.
- They are not employing "False Doctrine" to change / pervert the Gospel... That is addressed in ACTS 20:28-30; the LETTER TO THE GALATIANS; COLOSSIANS 2; 1 & 2 TIMOTHY; TITUS; and JUDE.

CHRIST IS PROCLAIMED

18) What then? Only that in every way, whether in Pretense or in Truth, CHRIST is proclaimed [Katangello], and in that I rejoice.