

Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason

[Philippians 1:15-20 HCSB](#) Some, to be sure, preach Christ out of envy and strife, but others out of good will. (16) These do so out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; (17) the others proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely, seeking to cause *me* trouble in my imprisonment. (18) What does it matter? Just that in every way, whether out of false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice (19) because I know this will lead to my deliverance through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (20) My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Preach...out of envy and strife. They weren't preaching heresy. Paul had no tolerance for that at all! They were preaching the truth but out of wicked motives. What a terrible thing; to preach the Word of Life with darkness and death inside us. What judgment will fall on ones who are foolish enough to do so?

- [Matthew 24:50-51 HCSB](#) *that slave's master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. (51) He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

When we speak, and we all have a message for someone whether we're formal teachers in the church or not, one of the first things that we need to examine about the message that we have is: who does it benefit most, us or the person to whom we are delivering it? If it is a piece of information that will give us more satisfaction than the person who hears it, we should be cautious. Maybe we even need to re-think the situation because that kind of message is often something that rises out of one's own ego or hurt feelings. These kinds of messages that rise from our own hurt feelings or our self-righteous indignation only create more havoc. So, my advice is to spend some time discerning the message and its source. Mull it over for a couple of days. If the urge is still strong and is not something that "riles you" every time you think of it, then this is probably a message that is meant to be spoken.

Others out of good will. This means, though they may not be perfect and may not always know the right thing to do in a given circumstance, their hearts are in the right place and they are honestly trying to do their best.

They preach out of love. Love is what compels them to preach boldly and even fiercely, in spite of the likely consequences, evidenced right before their very eyes in Paul's imprisonment. They preach out of love for their community because they want to see them truly saved. They preach out of love for their congregation because they take to heart the fact that the mandate is not to make mere converts but disciples. They preach out of love for Paul who led them to the Lord and whose work they are continuing. They preach out of love for the Lord Jesus who also spoke boldly and fiercely to them, though it cost Him His life.

In every way...Christ is proclaimed. Still, though there are hypocrites and malicious people out there, sometimes even in the pulpit, there is some positive truth to be gained from this. We need to understand that the Gospel rises above its messenger. The message is more than the medium. Someone may stand in the pulpit and preach but that doesn't make him a messenger from God. Indeed,

- [2 Corinthians 11:13-15 HCSB](#) For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself

is disguised as an angel of light. (15) So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their destiny will be according to their works.

Nevertheless, should a person hear the Gospel and accept it gladly, even though it was delivered by a false messenger, the Gospel, and that person's salvation still stands. Were the power and effectiveness of God's Word be dependent on its human messengers we would ALL be lost and miserable.

[Philippians 1:19 HCSB](#) because I know this will lead to my deliverance through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Spirit of Christ Jesus. This is not like the "Spirit of St. Louis" or the "Spirit of America" like some inanimate object or concept. This refers to the person called the Holy Spirit or, in Hebrew, the Ruach' ha Kodesh. Discussion of or reference to the Spirit often crops up in Paul's writings. The Spirit is sometimes called the "Spirit of Christ Jesus"

- [Acts 16:7 HCSB](#) When they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
- [Romans 8:9 HCSB](#) You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- [Galatians 4:6 HCSB](#) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!"

At other times, the Spirit is called the Spirit of God.

- [Romans 8:9 HCSB](#) You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- [Romans 8:14 HCSB](#) All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.
- [1 Corinthians 2:10-11 HCSB](#) Now God has revealed them to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. (11) For who among men knows the concerns of a man except the spirit of the man that is in him? In the same way, no one knows the concerns of God except the Spirit of God.
- [1 Corinthians 2:14 HCSB](#) But the natural man does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to know it since it is evaluated spiritually.

The Spirit is sometimes sent by the Father.

- [John 14:16-17 HCSB](#) And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (17) He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.
- [John 14:26 HCSB](#) But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit--the Father will send Him in My name--will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

At other times, by the Son.

- [John 15:26 HCSB](#) "When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father--He will testify about Me.

- **John 16:7 HCSB** Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you.

Deliverance. Here we see the Spirit's role in deliverance from difficult circumstances. In 2:1 the Spirit brings unity to God's people and in 3:3 helps them truly worship. The deliverance referenced here in 1:19 may either mean that Paul was anticipating being acquitted.

- **Philippians 1:25 HCSB** Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your advancement and joy in the faith,
- **Philippians 2:24 HCSB** And I am convinced in the Lord that I myself will also come quickly.

Or it could mean that he would find deliverance through death.

- **Philippians 2:17 HCSB** But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.
- **Romans 8:18 HCSB** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.
- **2 Corinthians 5:8 HCSB** yet we are confident and satisfied to be out of the body and at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:20 HCSB My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

My eager expectation and hope. Like the Apostle, we need to have faith in Jesus' promise:

- **Matthew 10:19-20 HCSB** But when they hand you over, don't worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, (20) because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.

Paul wasn't dreading what was coming and half-hoping he could hold out. He was eager to see how the Lord would help him through it. Remember, he'd already been through flogging, stoning, near drowning, poverty, etc. He'd been there, done that and based on that experience he was eager and hopeful that the strength he needed would be there right on time.

Listen to Corrie Ten Boom who survived the death camp Ravensbruck: "When I was a little girl, " I said, "I went to my father and said, "Daddy, I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ."

"Tell me," said Father, "When you take a train trip to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?"

"No, Daddy, you give me the money for the ticket just before we get on the train."

"That is right," my father said, "and so it is with God's strength. Our Father in Heaven knows when you will need the strength to be a martyr for Jesus Christ. **He will supply all you need – just in time...**"

Honored in my body. Our bodies are no longer our own. We are God's sanctuary and the Spirit of God lives in us.

- **1 Corinthians 3:16 HCSB** Don't you know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you?
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 HCSB** Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

As a temple is designed to bring honor and glory to the God worshiped there, so our bodies are primarily designed to glorify Yahweh Adonai.

There are essentially two kinds of people in the world - God's and Satan's. In the grand scheme of things, being Canadian or American or French or Chadian is irrelevant. Those kingdoms come and go. They're a dime a dozen. Only two empires stretch back through time to the very dawn of human civilization. Only two empires continue to fight proxy wars to this very day and will continue until the final judgment at the end of the Millennial reign.

Those two kinds of people can be described as "flesh thinkers" or "spirit thinkers".

- **Romans 8:5-8 HCSB** For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so. (8) Those whose lives are in the flesh are unable to please God.

Flesh thinkers think that comforting, feeding, and entertaining the body is all there is in life. So they are materialistic and sensual and avoid anything that might limit their pleasures like the plague. Spirit thinkers, while still acutely aware of their bodies, and still struggling with its various weaknesses, know that this body is temporary at best and so put it lower on their value system. Flesh thinkers are unable to please God and because they are unable to please El Ch'aim, the God of Life, their way leads to death. Not just physical death (which pretty much everyone suffers anyway) but spiritual death. Paul took heed of Jesus' admonition:

- **Matthew 10:28 HCSB** Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

I encourage all of us to do the same.