**Christ Is Preached**

**(Phil 1:15-18)**

The preachers in this text serve as positive and negative examples—those who sow discord and those who preach from pure motives. Throughout the letter, Paul will bring up positive and negative examples for the Philippians to ponder as they reflect on their own mentality and unbecoming conduct.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Paul mentions these preachers only as a tactic to catch the Philippian readers in their own unworthy motives that are tearing the community apart. The **envy** and **strife** plaguing these opponents apply to the Philippians, who have their own problems with selfishness and petty rivalries. Paul does not focus on what the opponents are doing but on the **spirit** that **motivates** them, because this spirit is present in Philippi. This self-seeking, divisive spirit grieves him, but he mentions all of this to the Philippians because this same frame of mind—characterized by selfishness, superiority complexes, and petty rivalries—is beginning to surface among them and threaten their unity.

**What spirit motivates you to serve in the ministry?**

1. Not everyone is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** or serving from a pure motive.
2. Some foster **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, and their preaching and service are tainted by **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Rom 1:29; Gal 5:21, 1Tim 6:4; Tit 3:3).
3. Some are serving from **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, or **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ambition**- a term related to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, political **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,** and a desire to heighten Paul's afflictions.
4. Paul says they are not accused of perverting truth, and he only describes their bad spirit and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
5. They were preaching to see Paul **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that Paul cites, then, is not simply a feeling of ill will because of another’s advantages or greater praises, but an active force that leads his rivals to attempt to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
6. They did not understand his imprisonment to be “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,” i.e., in the sphere of Christ’s saving action, or for the defense and confirmation of the gospel. They did not regard his imprisonment as a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (1:7) but as a ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***.
7. Those who preach from **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** also to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, because their motives are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
8. They know that he is there by the operation of God’s **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
9. God has brought him to this **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the gospel.
10. When your haters are against you, so what? Christ is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
11. Paul is not immune to personal hurt (2 Co 1:23, 2:4; 7:3 16), but he does not put his **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** above the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** progress.
12. What is important is not his **personal** **vindication** before a Roman court or rival Christians, but the defense and confirmation of the gospel**. His private concerns must not outweigh his ultimate task.[[2]](#footnote-2)**

1. David E. Garland, [“Philippians,”](https://ref.ly/logosres/ebcrev12?ref=Page.p+201&off=717&ctx=unity+that+follows.+~These+preachers+serv) in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Ephesians–Philemon (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III, vol. 12 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 201. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. David E. Garland, [“Philippians,”](https://ref.ly/logosres/ebcrev12?ref=Bible.Php1.18&off=505&ctx=ance+of+the+gospel.+~Paul+is+not+immune+t) in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Ephesians–Philemon (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III, vol. 12 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 200. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)