

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL!

- (Galatians 2:5 NIV) We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

TWO SOMEWHAT STARTLING CONTRASTS ...

- **CONTRAST #1: THE TRUE GOSPEL PREACHED WITH SINFUL MOTIVES IS CONTRASTED WITH A FALSE GOSPEL PREACHED WITH UNCLEAR MOTIVES.**

True Gospel—Sinful Motives ...

- (Philippians 1:15–18 ESV) (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. Yes, and I will rejoice.

False Gospel—Unclear Motives ...

- (Galatians 1:8–9 ESV) (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (9) As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- **CONTRAST #2: PAUL'S REACTION TO THE GOSPEL BEING PREACHED WITH SINFUL MOTIVES AND THE FALSE GOSPEL BEING PREACHED.**

First, the gospel being preached with sinful motives ...

1. Paul acknowledges that some preach the gospel for the right reasons and some preach the gospel with sinful motives.
2. The people who were preaching with sinful motives were downright mean. They were motivated by envy and selfish ambition. They were pretentious, insincere and mean-spirited. They intentionally tried to hurt Paul while he was in prison. They were low-down, no-good, dirty varmint.
3. And Paul rejoiced because Christ was being proclaimed.
4. And if we missed it the first time, he repeated himself. “Yes, and I will rejoice.”

Second, the false gospel being preached with unclear motives ...

1. The motivation of those who were preaching the contrary gospel is unclear from our text.

2. False teachers can be very sincere and well-intended.
3. We have the example of Peter who for a time endorsed the contrary gospel and was rebuked by Paul.
4. We know that Peter was at least partially motivated out fear.
5. We know that Peter was acting hypocritically which seems to indicate that his motivation was mixed—at best impure.
6. We know that Peter’s “conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel.”
7. However, it seems that we get a powerful hint concerning motivation when Paul brings himself and “an angel from heaven” into the discussion.
8. “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”
9. If even this supernatural being, no matter how supremely motivated, had the truth of the gospel wrong, then Paul says that angel is to be under the curse of God.

IN SUMMARY “THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL” IS PARAMOUNT IN PAUL’S WORLD ...

Is it wrong to preach the true gospel with the wrong motivation? Of course it is. But Paul would still rejoice because it is “the truth of the gospel.”

So, then, maybe it is okay to preach a false gospel with the best motivation? You know ... God being a God of grace and all. Paul says let that person be under the curse of God.



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

- (Galatians 1:8 ESV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.