

The R2 Principle

Phil. 1:15-18c

Theme: Regardless of other Christians' motives for preaching Christ, if Christ is preached a Christian should rejoice.

Theme of Philippians:

***Living the Reality of the
Christian Life***

- appropriate for the times in which we live
- appropriate as we end one year and commence another

Paul's Suffering Advances the Gospel (1:12-14)

Paul's imprisonment caused the Gospel to advance, *cf.* 1:12.

1. The reason for his imprisonment became clear to the whole palace guard and to others (1:12-13);

2. His chains emboldened local Christians to preach the Word more courageously (1:14).

Paul now writes in connection with this preaching.

Preaching the Gospel & Motives for Preaching it (1:15-18c)

Paul knew the motives behind such
preaching:

1. Some preached Christ out of good will and love, appreciating why Paul was in prison (1:15b–16).

2. Others preached Christ out of envy, rivalry and selfish ambition, with insincerity and to stir up trouble for Paul while he was in prison (1:15a; 17).

How does Paul react to this?

He sets his own interests to one side and focuses on the progress of the Gospel. *Cf.* 1:18.

Why can he do this, given the motives of some Christians?

Despite the human instrument, God will honour the proclamation of His Word, *cf.* Is. 55:10-11; Heb. 4:12.

Two important principles emerge
from 1:15-18c:

1. Regardless of a Christian's circumstances, if Christ is being preached that Christian should rejoice.

*Are you in the habit of rejoicing
when you know that Christ is
being preached?*

2. Regardless of others' motives for preaching Christ, if Christ is preached a Christian should rejoice.

a. If Christ is preached by other Christians out of good will and love a Christian should rejoice:

- because God will honour such preaching. *Cf.* Is. 55:10-11; Heb. 4:12; parable of sower;

- because a brother or sister in Christ is serving well.

b. If Christ is preached by other Christians out of personal envy, rivalry or insincerity a Christian should rejoice:

- because God can honour such preaching;

- because you can confidently leave a motive-erring child of God in the hands of a Father Who will discipline His child in love. *Cf.* Heb. 12:6 & 2 Tim. 4:14.

Conclusion—The R2 Principle

*Let us end 2009 and enter 2010
embracing the big principle in
Philippians 1:15-18c - the R2
principle:*

***REGARDLESS** of the motive of
other Christians for preaching
Christ, if Christ is preached a
Christian should **REJOICE**.*