

Motives - Phil 1:7-18

I'd like to start today with 2 powerful scriptures about our **MOTIVES** . . .

Prov 16.2 (NASB)

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives.

1Cor 4:5 (NASB)

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

Today – we want to talk about **MOTIVES** of the heart – Partially the motives of your own heart – But **Primarily** – the Motives of that other person's heart

We ended our last study in Phil – w/ that famous **Vs.6**

Phil 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

& in the light of our subject today – of Motives – I'd like to say . . .

If we truly believed this about one another –

It would be more difficult for us to question each others motives

Instead – we would just be confident that God is at work –

& He is more than able to finish the work He has started

But so often – When we are convinced **WE** are on the **RIGHT** track –

& **THEY** are on the **WRONG** track . . .

we end up judging & criticizing one another's motives

When instead – the truth is – God has them “in process” (just like us)

& God says here – He **will** complete the good work He's begun

So really - we can actually just relax - **& let God** keep doing the good work He's started in them - & in US!

Let's Pray

In **Phil 1:7** - Paul is continuing the thought – from **Vs.6** . . .

But **we also see** in **V.7** – a huge secret – that frees us from judging one another's motives

Phil 1:7

7 just as it is right for me to think this [V.6] **of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, . . .** [stop there for a minute]

Paul says “it’s right” for him to have this confidence in the Philippians

Because they are in his **heart** - & they are with him in his **chains** - & in the **defense** and the **confirmation** of the gospel - - -

Now **that makes sense** to us – the Philippians are **on** Paul's side – they care about him – they are in essence “there with him”

& **so his heart** is connected to them - & we understand why he'd say he is confident in God's work being accomplished in them

but then – at the end of **V.7** is a phrase that **equally fits** those who are **NOT** for us . . . those whom we'd have the tendency to question (judge) their motives

7(B) . . . you all are partakers with me of grace.

It's not that Paul is “sharing” his grace with them - - (??) It's that they are partakers of the same grace of God . . .

We are **ALL** - Equal Partakers of the grace of God -
& if we will hear it, that puts us **all** on an equal playing field

We are all equally sinners - & we are all equally recipients of God grace

& by the **end of our text** today – we’ll see Paul take this approach
to those who were not exactly “pullin for him” – or – “on his side”

But for now – we move to **V.8** – Paul ends this thought of confidence
for the saints at Philippi

Phil 1:8

8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

That is the **fellowship of the ministry** - & it is a wonderful thing

Now - back in **V.4** – Paul had said –

4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

& now - **from V.9 to V.11** he’s going to tell them some of
what he prays for them for

Phil 1:9

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

The **very 1st thing** Paul **prays** for the Philippian church –
is the same thing I believe he would pray for this church today

. . . that your love (agape) may abound still more and more . . .

In **1Pet 4:8** – Peter writes to the church

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

& that “**cover**” isn’t like “**cover-up**” –
it means more “**wash-away**” a multitude of sins

It’s **love that washes** away the offenses, judgments, & criticisms in the church
& how the church needs some more of that – don’t we ?

[put up V.9]

Again – in **V.9** – Paul prays that the Philippians **love may abound . . .**
still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

knowledge here = “epignosis” = Spiritual / Divine Knowledge

discernment here is referring to **being led** by that Divine Knowledge
in **HOW** your love may abound more & more

So Paul prays our **love** would abound more & more –
in the **Divine Knowledge** & the **Divine Direction** of God

& **that’s gotta be** one of the best prayers I could think of – for the church body

Cont. his prayer – Paul says in **V.10**

Phil 1:10

10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be
sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

The word “approve” = **LIT.** “to know by testing”

It’s the same word used in **Rom 12:2** – [no video] . . . **be transformed, by**
the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that . . . perfect
will of God.

So FIRST - **that your love would abound more & more**
in Divine Knowledge & Divine Direction . . .

& that you would “know by testing” (approve)
the things that are excellent . . .

& then there is a wonderful word-picture –
Paul prays – that you may be **sincere** . . .

This word “**sincere**” means **LIT** – **oven-tested**

but here’s how it came about . . .

in ancient times the biggest industry In the world was the **pottery** industry
& pottery came from the very cheap to the very expensive

The **expensive pottery** was very thin - & was very fragile –
& in had a tendency to “**crack**” during the firing process

but **the dishonest dealers** figured out they could take a mixture
of wax & crushed pottery & fill in the cracks before painting the pot
(they did the same with sculpture)

& **no one could tell** if the pot had a crack until it was “**oven tested**”
because - of course - the wax would melt exposing the crack

& **so the dealers** began using two Latin words for their best pottery
they were **SINE CERA** – from which we get our word sincere . . .
& those two words mean – WITHOUT WAX

So **Paul prays** that we would be “without wax” –
& that we would be **oven-tested** in our love
abounding more & more for one another . . .

& then **he finished** his prayer - by praying that out of this love –
would come “Right Actions” . . .

Phil 1:11

**11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ,
to the glory and praise of God.**

we **shouldn’t mistake** the fruits of righteousness
with the fruit of the Spirit in **Gal 5:22**

The *fruit of the Spirit* is primarily “**INTERNAL**” fruit –
& the **emphasis** here is on what is seen **externally**

The **reference here** is our actions toward one another
that come from our *righteousness in Christ* . . .

The “*Fruits of Righteousness*” is that “*ever abounding love*” – put into action

& **1st** – notice **HOW** we are called to be filled with the “*fruits of righteousness*”
it is **BY** Jesus Christ . . .

You can have **no** *fruits of righteousness*
apart from Jesus Christ living **IN** you - & **THRU** you

Jn 15:4

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

When **someone sees** that “*fruit of righteousness*” in you – **That’s Jesus !**
& if they *don’t see ANY* fruits of righteousness” – **That’s YOU !**

& **2nd** – notice **WHY** – Paul prays we would be filled with
the *fruits of righteousness* - - -
it’s - ***to the glory and praise of God***

When the miracle of Jesus Christ is seen in you –
it is always to ***give the glory & praise to God***

Paul says in 2Cor 4:7

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

When you act like **YOU** – That’s **Your SIN NATURE**
When you act like **Jesus Christ** – That’s **the Power of God** in you !

Now – in **V.12** – we’re going to get back to our focus on MOTIVES –
& we see **Paul’s** true motives in how he regards his circumstances

Don’t circumstances so often show the **real stuff** a person is made of ??

Phil 1:12

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

We have got to put ourselves in Paul’s shoes - & when we do
the only logical thing we can say is - Paul . . . are you kidding ??

Paul was in chains – he was awaiting trial that may’ve ended in his execution
he had barely escaped a lynch mob - gone thru 2 yrs of prison in Cesarea -
& survived a shipwreck just to **get to prison** in Rome

But because of his single-minded **focus** on Jesus Christ – he says . . .
you know it’s really worked out for the furtherance of the gospel . . .
So **IT’S ALL GOOD !!!**

Now that’s what I call **pure motives** –
with **NO** 2nd guessing – judging - or criticizing

& **so immediately** – Paul turns the focus **OFF** himself –
& **onto** the great gospel of Jesus Christ . . .

Phil 1:13

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

The **good news is** – the Palace Guards are coming to Christ – **PTL !**

The palace guards were the elite – hand-picked guards of the emperor –
& Paul had one “captive” with him **24 hrs a day** . . .

& trust me – Paul was **not whining** to the guard about
“*woe is me – do you know all the horrible things people have done to me*”
or “*let me tell you how bad I’ve had it . . .*”

No chance – Paul told the guards about Christ – *& it became evident* to them all (& all the rest) that his **Chains were in Christ**

& **so his trials** had turned out for the *furtherance of the gospel* –
So he says . . . **Praise the Lord** . . . (*man – is that foreign thinking to us*)

When the world sees a Christian in a Trial –
they watch to see how that Christian is going to respond . . .

& **if** we respond *just like* the world does – w/ whining, complaining, criticizing

WHY would the world ever want to receive Jesus Christ
*if we act **just like them** when the chips get down . . . ?*

Now - in **V.14** – Paul says – *not only* are the Palace Guards
coming to *know Christ*

but the Christians in Rome are becoming *more & more confident* -
because of the way Paul is handling his suffering

Phil 1:14

14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Now - to say the least – things **weren't going** Paul's way . . .

but instead of acting just like an unbeliever –
Paul *becomes a witness* to the guards - & a witness to the brethren

& **by his witness** the lives of both *unbelievers* - & *believers* –
are radically changed . . .

by Jesus Christ living in him – **in the midst** of his circumstances

& so we think – **WOW**, this is incredible – *the brethren* are becoming more confident to speak the word – because of Paul's chains

& ***it IS incredible*** – & if we stopped at **V.14** –
we'd think everything was working out just peachy now . . .
but we need to **keep reading**

Phil 1:15

15 Some [meaning some mentioned in the previous vs] ***indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:***

Whoa – wait a minute Paul – isn't this more bad news . . . ?

Some of those who have become more confident because of your chains are preaching Christ with impure **MOTIVES** ??

Yep – that's right - **AND** some are preaching from goodwill (pure motives)
Now – this would have to be some kind of a "**Gut-Shot**" to Paul –

& **I wonder** what Paul **means** when he says the ones preaching Christ with impure motives are getting more confident because of Paul's chains

I wonder if they're getting more confident that Paul's not going to get out & come hunt them down . . . ?

In any case Paul recognizes – that **some** of those who are preaching are preaching with impure motives

But I **want you to notice** – that Paul doesn't name anybody in particular – & I think there's a chance he's making a **general statement** . . .

that **he knows** that there are those out there preaching with wrong motives – but he may **not specifically** know who they are . . .

In any case – he continues to describe them in V.16

1Phil 1:16

16 *The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;*

Some of those – who were gaining confidence to Preach Christ because of Paul's example . . .

Were doing it;

Out of Selfish Ambition

NOT sincerely (Not without wax)

& supposing to ADD affliction to Paul's chains

Now these are the Christian leaders we love to sink our teeth into –

Because these are the ones that we can attack their MOTIVES . . . where there is no evidence to prove or disprove our allegations

Christians get real good – at judging (& attacking) one another in the area of MOTIVE – because it's such a "Clean Kill"

When I was young – I served in leadership under a pastor – with whom I came to disagree with on some ministry approach & ministry direction issues

but since there was no outward sin that I could attack – instead I went for the jugular vein of MOTIVE

YEAH – that's it – His motives were all wrong - & I could tell –

God had decided that it was my job to judge the secret things of that pastors heart - & I was glad to make those judgments for God . . .

& I'm sure God He appreciated my help – not only in the judgment – but also in suggesting what God should do about it

But then – something happened – I became a Sr. Pastor – & soon there-after I had people judging my MOTIVES . . .

& **helping God** judge me - & *making suggestions* to God
about what He should **do to ME** – based on *their judgments* !

& **the more** people made **incorrect judgments** about MY heart –
the **less** I wanted to make **any judgments** about anyone else's heart . . .

& so – **not long ago** – I decided that judging *the deepest places*
of a *person's heart* - was a job best **left up to God**

& **I figured out** He could handle that job *all by Himself* –
& that He *didn't even need* my help

& **I believe** that is at least **some** of what we're *seeing*
in these Vs's Paul has written

Did you think that *Judging & Attacking* motives
was **NEW** to the Christian church . . . there is nothing new under the sun

Guys – **Paul experienced** attack after attack on the **MOTIVES** of his heart
& *I believe* – **that is why** this section ends the way it does

But 1st – he addresses "*The other half*" –
those who are preaching Christ with **pure motives** . . .

Tho again – **there is no evidence** indicating Paul knew
which ones were operating in **WRONG** motive - &
which ones were operating in **RIGHT** motives . . .

He just knew there were some on *both sides* . . .
& so he addresses the "*other side*" in **Vs.17**

Phil 1:17

17 but the latter [those preaching out of goodwill] **out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.**

So – Some preaching out of **Love** - & **Goodwill** –
& Some preaching out of **Selfish Ambition** & **Insincerity**

& so – what would the greatest apostle do – in **such** a situation . . . ?
& what should we do – if we are ever faced with a **similar** situation . . . ?

The answer – is in the next Vs. . . .

Phil 1:18

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Now Paul – **what about**
judging ‘em - & bringin em down - & makin ‘em pay?

Oh – there’s none of that ? . . .

Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

What a **radical concept** –
& what a freeing commitment for each of us . . .

We **let God be God** – We don’t have to take His place –
& we let Him judge the things that **ONLY HE** can really judge anyway

& **if Christ is being preached** – we just **rejoice** - & continue to **rejoice**

What you say we make a commitment right now – to doing just that ???

Let’s Pray