

Philippians 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Analysis

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice (Τί γάρ; πλὴν ὅτι παντὶ τρόπῳ, εἴτε προφάσει εἴτε ἀληθείᾳ, Χριστὸς καταγγέλλεται, καὶ ἐν τούτῳ χαίρω, Τι γαρ? plēn hoti panti tropō, eite prophasei eite alētheia, Christos katangelletai, kai en toutō chairō)—Ti gar? ("What then? What of it?") dismisses concern over motives. Plēn ("nevertheless, only this matters") focuses on the essential: **Christ is preached** (Χριστὸς καταγγέλλεται, Christos katangelletai, present passive).

Prophasei ("in pretense, as a pretext") versus alētheia ("in truth, sincerely") contrasts false and genuine motives. Paul's double affirmation—I **therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice** (χαίρω, ἀλλὰ καὶ χαρήσομαι, chairō, alla kai charēsomai, present and future tenses)—shows settled, continuing joy. This remarkable magnanimity prioritizes gospel content and Christ's fame over personal honor. Where Christ is biblically proclaimed, Paul rejoices, whatever the preacher's motives.

Historical Context

Paul's response was countercultural in honor-shame societies where personal reputation and vindication were paramount. His Christ-centeredness relativized personal affronts. This verse also distinguishes content (Christology) from motive

(psychology)—both matter, but content is primary. Paul would vigorously oppose false gospels (Gal 1:8-9) but tolerate impure motives if the gospel was true.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Can you rejoice when God is glorified through people you dislike or who oppose you?
2. How do you balance Paul's magnanimity here with his anathema on false gospels (Gal 1:8)?
3. What would it take for you to say 'I rejoice and will rejoice' about rivals in ministry?

Interlinear Text

τί	γάρ	πλὴν	παντὶ	τρόπῳ	εἴτε	προφάσει	εἴτε
What	then	notwithstanding	every	way	or	in pretence	or
G5101	G1063	G4133	G3956	G5158	G1535	G4392	G1535
ἀληθείᾳ	Χριστὸς	καταγγέλλεται	καὶ	ἐν	τούτῳ		
in truth	Christ	is preached	and	therein			G5129
G225	G5547	G2605	G2532	G1722			
χαρήσομαι	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	χαρήσομαι				
I	yea	and	I				
G5463	G235	G2532	G5463				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:50 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.

1 Corinthians 15:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (Parallel theme): What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

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