

STUDY PACK 15

STRIFE AND ENVY!

“In the end, there are two types of preachers. There are those who preach and teach with “_____”, seeking to make Christ known, and there are those who do so _____. Paul mentions the two here, and while the second group is easier to understand, the first group concerns my resolution, rebuking my heart when I feel envy and rivalry, and correcting it back on the right path. It is interesting that both groups do, outwardly, what Jesus would call us to do, they preach the gospel, maybe even with the same fervor and passion as one another. Yet outward obedience is the only place their lives agree. Just as both Jesse and Samuel were confused at the choice of David to be their king, we must remember God sees the heart. We can be taken in by those who preach the gospel from _____.”

~~ Chris Pearson ~~

I. **THOSE WHO WERE PREACHING CHRIST OUT OF WRONG MOTIVES DID NOT START THAT WAY! PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18**

- A. They were saved, called, trained and used of God.
- B. They had the right message - they preached _____.
- C. Paul was in constant trouble with the Roman legal system. This was not his fault. There are often occasions when people are in trouble because of godliness - not ungodliness.
- D. Somewhere along the way the motives of Paul’s critics changed. They became ambitious, Jeremiah 45:4; jealous, and bitter. In the past they prepared sermons from the Scriptures because they _____ and _____. However, somewhere their motives changed. They were now concerned about _____!
 - 1. Some people end up preaching Christ because they love _____. Their pride takes over. They love having everybody look at them. They love the sound of their own voice. They may have begun preaching because they love the word of God. They keep on preaching because they love _____ and _____.
 - 2. When you preach because you love pre-eminence and glory, you are tempted to design your message to promote yourself and to belittle other people. _____ and _____ becomes your method.
 - 3. In 3 John 9-10, the Scripture tells us the story of Diotrephes. I have seen many examples of the Diotrephes attitude in independent Baptist churches in the U.S.A. Many churches are trapped under the leadership of a

Diotrephes who keeps pastor after pastor from fulfilling the role of the pastor.

Diotrephes either was never called to preach or never had the character and discipline to prepare and get ready for the ministry. However, he is determined to be _____.

4. Ambition causes some people to promote _____ and _____. Some people just want to promote their influence and position. They are jealous of the blessing of God on anyone else. Paul was in prison. Some preachers (genuine gospel preachers) were trying to take advantage of his being in prison to gain respect and influence for themselves.

You see an example of ambition in Matthew 20:20-28. On at least three different occasions, Christ had to rebuke the apostles _____.

II. IF YOU PREACH CHRIST OUT OF SECTARIAN LOYALTY YOU ARE PROMOTING ENVY AND STRIFE

- A. _____ rejected this attitude - Numbers 11:24-30.
- B. _____ rejected this attitude - Luke 9:30-36; 9:49-50.
- C. _____ rejected this attitude - 1 Corinthians 1:11-18.

III. LESSONS ABOUT BIBLICAL SEPARATION FROM THE TRUTH ABOUT STRIFE AND ENVY

- A. Do not be surprised if you are _____ and if strife and envy are used against you.
- B. Do not be _____! We can be tempted to use the same methods that are used against us.
- C. Sometimes _____ attacks against you - sometimes _____ - Proverbs 26:4-5.
- D. Do not allow yourself _____ by others - Galatians 2:11-15.
- E. Do not let your critics rob _____ - Philippians 1:18.