

Rejoice When Christ Is Preached

October 8, 2017 – Philippians 1:15-19

“It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I REJOICE. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.”

As I turned on the Television on Monday Morning to see what the weather was going to be, instead I saw the BREAKING NEWS Report of the Las Vegas Shooting. You could see the chaos and hear the gun fire that someone had recorded which sounded like a gun battle in a war movie. My breath was taken away and I wept. One act of violence ended the lives of 58 people and changed the lives of 500 +, together with all the families and friends connected to those victims as well as repercussions that will result in laws and fears in Americans. One Act of Violence which we witnessed again and again on the news broadcasts this past week are a sorrowful reminder of what God tells us in the Scriptures concerning the sinful human nature.

Genesis 6:5 – “The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”

Psalms 51:5 – “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”

Isaiah 64:6 – “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;”

Matthew 15:19-20 – “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 – These are what make a man unclean; but eating with unwashed hands does not make a man unclean.”

Approximately 6,130 years ago, In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve desired to be like God and then carried through on their sinful desire by eating of the Forbidden Fruit, of - *The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* – That one act of disobedience changed the World in a far greater circumference / perimeter / boundary than the Las Vegas Shooting.

When Adam and Eve Sinned - DEATH entered the World. – God did not create mankind to die, but because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience, death entered the world – weeds – pain in child bearing – hate and murder and adultery and theft. Because of One Act of Obedience by the Lord Jesus Christ it changed the future of mankind.

Romans 5:18-19 & 21 – Consequently, just as the result of ONE Trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of ONE Act of Righteousness was JUSTIFICATION that brings life for ALL men. 19 – For just as through the disobedience of the ONE man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One Man the many will be made righteous. So that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!”

Eternal Life is ours because of the Salvation which Jesus Christ won for all of Mankind by His perfect, obedient life, his suffering and death on the cross and His Glorious resurrection. It is thus because of this Salvation won for us that the Apostle Paul writes the following to the congregation in Philippi:

Vs. 15 – It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will.

Vs. 16 – The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

Vs. 17 – The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

Vs. 18 – But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I REJOICE. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

Does this mean that it is OK to preach false doctrine? Of course not! As Christians we have a responsibility to God, to search the Scriptures diligently and draw out God's Truth and proclaim that truth every time.

One amazing thing is that when the Apostle Paul wrote these words which include the Word – REJOICE. The Apostle Paul was in Prison. He rejoiced because as he wrote in vs. 12-14

Vs. 12 - "Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Vs. 13 – As a result, it has become clear throughout the WHOLE palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Vs. 14 – Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly."

As the week progressed did you notice that signs with the names of the victims and their names were written on **CROSS** markers?

It was upon the cross that Jesus Christ, True God and True Man, laid down His life for the sin of the World and by His Blood we are Justified, we are saved, we are forgiven.

In Christ Jesus and His work for the World, for us, for you, we have Eternal Life in heaven where there is no more sin, or death or sorrow. All Because of Jesus! AMEN