

THE GOSPEL, THE PLATFORM, AND THE PREACHER

A Biblical Balance for Ministry Visibility

Philippians 1:12–18

The gospel may travel through modern platforms, but the servant of Christ must continually ask whether the platform is magnifying Christ or quietly magnifying himself.

The Opportunity Is Good; the Danger Is the Heart **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

- Modern tools can spread Christian teaching around the world in seconds.
- Sermons, prayer updates, pictures, videos, livestreams, and messages can reach thousands.
- The same tools that spread the gospel can also promote the preacher.
- The danger is becoming more concerned about views and visibility than about our own walk with God.

1. The Gospel Is Bigger Than the Messenger **Philippians 1:12**

- Paul said his circumstances had turned out “for the furtherance of the gospel.”
- The goal is the advance of the gospel, not the preservation of our importance.
- A faithful servant can lose visibility without losing joy.

2. Distinguish a Wrong Motive from a Wrong Gospel **Phil 1:15–18**

- Some preached Christ from goodwill; others from envy and selfish ambition.
- A true gospel does not become false because the preacher has mixed motives.
- A false gospel does not become true because the preacher is sincere or popular.
- We must examine both the message and the motive.

3. The Internet Does Not Create Self-Promotion; It Reveals and Amplifies It **2 Corinthians 4:5**

- “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.”
- Visibility itself is not the problem.
- The danger is the heart’s desire to turn visibility into personal significance.

4. Report What God Has Done **Acts 14:27**

- Paul and Barnabas reported “all that God had done with them.”
- Ask: Does this help people see what God has done, or mainly what I have done?
- Biblical reporting should be specific and honest, but God must remain the center.

5. Christian Communication Should Be Trustworthy, Not Merely Impressive **Acts 15:27**

- Christian communication should do more than attract attention.
- It should deserve trust.

6. Biblical Balance: Let People See, but Let God Receive the Glory **Matthew 5:16; Matthew 6:1**

- **Matthew 5:16**: Let people see good works so that they glorify the Father.
- **Matthew 6:1**: Do not do good works merely “to be seen by men.”
- Scripture does not command invisibility; it commands purity of purpose.
- Use the platform boldly, but do not let the platform decide what faithfulness means.

7. The Searching Test:

Can I Rejoice When Christ Is Preached Without Me? **Phil 1:20; Jn 3:30**

- The goal is that Christ be magnified.
- “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- Spiritual maturity is rejoicing when Christ is magnified even when someone else is the visible instrument.

Five Tests Before We Post, Preach, Publish, or Report

1. Test the Message — **Philippians 1:18**

- Is this the Christ and gospel of Scripture?
- Is Christ truly being preached?

2. Test the Motive — **Philippians 1:15–17**

- Am I trying to please God or secure human admiration?
- Ask not only, “What am I preaching?” but also, “Why am I preaching it?”

3. Test the Report — **Philippians 1:12–14**

- Does it honestly show what God has done?
- Paul did not make himself the hero; he explained how God used his imprisonment to advance the gospel and strengthen others.

4. Test the Fruit — **Philippians 1:25–27**

- Does the ministry move people toward worship, prayer, obedience, faith, joy, and conduct worthy of the gospel?
- The goal is not merely admiration for the preacher.

5. Test the Heart — **Philippians 1:18, 20**

- Can I rejoice if Christ is preached, believers grow, and the gospel advances even if my name becomes smaller?
- Can I rejoice if Christ is magnified and I am forgotten?

Conclusion — Who Has First Place?

- The internet is not going away, and Christians should not retreat from every public platform.
- The gospel deserves to be carried as far as faithful means can carry it.
- But modern communication can amplify old sins: envy, rivalry, exaggeration, self-commendation, and the love of preeminence.
- **Colossians 1:18**: Christ is to have the preeminence.
- **3 John 9**: Diotrephes loved to have the preeminence.

FINAL QUESTION

**Am I using the platform to magnify Christ,
or am I using Christ to magnify the platform — and myself?**

WHO HAS FIRST PLACE?