



SERIES:	Technicolor Joy
MESSAGE:	Pest Control
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Philippians 1:15-18

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Every group—whether it's a club, a corporation, a homeowner association, or a church—has its share of problem people and detractors. Such can be touchy, irritable, irrational, unreasonable, contentious, or legalistic. Their words may hurt us deeply. Their actions may confuse us greatly. So how do we handle these pesky folks? Most importantly, what should we do or not do with those who name the name of Christ but act like pests?

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Church history is filled with contention
 - 1. Unbelievers have noticed this
 - 2. Many denominations hold to many varying beliefs and practices
- B. There were Christian people who were opposed to Paul
 - 1. We are all imperfect, but we all get together (see Luke 4:18)
 - 2. We are a messy bunch
- C. How do you deal with people who claim to be Christians but are pesky?

II. Identify the Troublemakers

- A. Troublemakers emerge on their own
- B. These people were believers (see v. 14)
 - 1. Some people like to idealize the early church
 - 2. The New Testament is filled with early church issues
 - a. Corinth was divided over leadership
 - b. It was filled with rampant divorce and immorality, and lacked love
- C. Satan loves to exploit and amplify any issue that may be among us
- D. They were jealous of Paul
 - 1. Paul was an easy target: intelligent, gifted, successful
 - 2. This is human nature
- E. They were a contentious group
 - 1. Argumentative
 - 2. Some people thrive on this and are known more for what they are against than what they are for
 - 3. They exist to slam others
- F. They were selfish (see v. 16)
 - 1. A political term that refers to a politician canvassing for self-promotion
 - 2. They put down Paul to make themselves puffed up

3. Not new in the early church (see 3 John 1:9)
 4. When you hear gossip, someone's ego is being exalted
 - G. They were malicious (see v. 16)
 1. *Thlipsis* = persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation
 2. Irritation caused by the rubbing of one object over another
 3. They wanted to add to Paul's already irritating situation
 4. They were not anti-Christ, but they were anti-Paul
- III. Ratify the Truth-makers
- A. There are troublemakers, but there are also good people
 - B. Starve the problem and feed the solution
 1. Run ahead of the troublemakers
 2. Their voice will diminish as you go further ahead
 - C. Paul most likely lost his life as a result of troublemaking Christians in Rome
 1. He was beheaded by Caesar Nero
 2. Many of the jealous Christians in Rome denounced Paul, adding to the sentence handed down by Nero
 3. Onesiphorus (see 2 Timothy 1:16-17)
 - a. Came to visit Paul in prison in Rome
 - b. No one would or could tell him where Paul was
 - c. He had to search for him
 - d. It seems that many people were embarrassed that Paul was in prison
 4. Clement of Rome
 - a. Wrote a letter to the church at Corinth addressing anger and jealousy among God's people
 - b. Listed deaths, trouble, and issues plaguing seven specific church leaders as a result of these problems
 - c. One of the examples was of Paul
 - d. Envy among Christians somehow brought about Paul's execution
 5. 2 Timothy 4:16-17
 - a. No one stood with Paul except the Lord
 - b. He was utterly alone
- IV. Magnify the True Message
- A. *What then?* means *So what?*
 1. Though he was persecuted by unbelievers and picked on by believers, Paul still rejoiced
 2. Paul was not impervious to the criticisms of others
 3. He was a person with emotions and feelings, and he was wounded deeply
 - B. He rejoiced because the gospel was being preached
 1. The power is in the message, not the messenger
 2. If people tamper with the message, go at them (see Galatians 1:6-8)
 3. If people tamper with the messenger, ignore them
 - C. They were brothers in Christ
- V. Closing
- A. We often make too much over what divides us and not enough over what unites us
 1. We are often known more for what we are against
 2. God reserves the right to use people who disagree with you

- B. You don't get to heaven by being a certain denomination, but by trusting in Christ's death and resurrection

Figures referenced: Caesar Nero, Clement of Rome, C.S. Lewis, John Trapp, John Wesley

Works referenced: *The Screwtape Letters*

Greek words: thlipsis

Cross references: Luke 4:18; Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 1:16-17; 4:16-17; 3 John 1:9

Topic: Division

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