

Hypocrisy, Covetousness, Sincerity, & God

Today we're going to be talking about hypocrisy and evangelism. Both topics highlight the importance of sincerity. Paul brings the two together when he speaks to the church about many people in his time who were "*peddling the word of God*" (2 Cor. 2:17). They were using the "*pure milk of the word,*" and polluting it with their selfish greed (Cf. 1 Pet. 2:1). Their evangelistic efforts were saturated in hypocrisy, and their hypocrisy was driven by covetousness. Interestingly, as we give attention to our Lord's teachings in Luke 12, we see this exact sequence unfold. First, our Lord addresses hypocrisy, then He answers a man's question and addresses the dangers of covetousness!

Paul's evangelistic tactics were never stained by the corrosiveness of hypocrisy and greed. Paul immediately returns the attention back to his company and says, "*But [we] as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.*" Paul's efforts were sincere, genuine, true, pure. His evangelistic tactics were not polluted by the drive for filthy lucre and greed. But someone would

ask Paul, "If it isn't money, then what is it that you want?!" Perhaps Paul's response would be as our Lord, "*I told you, and you do not believe*" (Jhn. 10:25). The answer is just as he has been saying before, "*We speak in the sight of God in Christ.*" That was Paul's drive. That was Paul's "covetousness," God! Paul sought to please God.

What drives you in evangelism? What is your tactic? I submit to you, if what drives you is anything other than pleasing the Lord Jesus, covetousness and hypocrisy are the only two things that will describe your outreach and motivation. It won't be long before people notice your change in character among unbelievers, your smooth words, your liking for popularity. Even the unbelievers will detect your insincerity a mile away! What will a man give in exchange for his soul? Reach out because you want to please God. Reach out and please God. Let the love of Christ compel you.

~ D.L.

Scripture Index for Today's Sermons:

"*Beware of Hypocrisy*": **Luke 12:1-12**; Psa. 19:11; 1 Tim. 5:24-25; Prov. 10:6; Neh. 13:31; 1 Cor. 15:58; Mat. 10; Mark. 3:30

"*Evangelism (Part II): Act Upon It*": **Acts 16:11-15**; 11:19-25; Mat. 10:11; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5