

He Who Began A Good Work In You...
Philippians 1:6
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Pastor Victor Lopez

Reading: Philippians 1:1-11

Introduction: This Letter was written by Paul to the church of Philippi during Paul's Roman house arrest around the year 61 A.D. Paul is waiting for his court date before Caesar. **Acts 28:30-31**

Paul is writing to the church he started and to a group of believers who were with him and supported him morally in prayer, physically provided for his needs, and also helped him financially.

Thought of The Passage: God Loves You As You Are, And When You Surrender Your Life To Him, You Will See That He Is Faithful To Complete The Good Work He Began In You.

Outline:

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| 1. In My Thoughts | Philippians 1:1-3 |
| 2. In My Prayers | Philippians 1:4-6 |
| 3. In My Heart | Philippians 1:7-11 |

1. In My Thoughts – Philippians 1:1-3

Philippians 1:1a

Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus,

Bondservant = "Considered property of a Roman Citizen." "A person bound in service with no wages." Greek = *doulos* - Hebrew = 'ebed = similar in meaning - **Exodus 21:5-6**

I have been set free, and I am free to serve Christ freely.

You cannot be a *Christian* (Like Christ) apart from serving God and serving others.

Christ is our example. **Matthew 20:27-28**

Philippians 1:1b To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,

This was a church planted by Paul 11 years earlier during his second missionary journey.

To all the saints... Saint = "holy one" "set apart for God's purpose."

...including the overseers [NKJV Bishops = overseers with leadership roles and responsibilities] **and deacons** = those with positions of practical service like waiting on tables (Acts 6).

This is the structure: saints (All Christians), overseers, and deacons.

Philippians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul is speaking of the peace of God he mentions in **Philippians 4:6-7**

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
There is a joyful element of thanksgiving for these saints. **Hebrews 13:17**

Galatians 6:7

2. In My Prayers – Philippians 1:4-6

Philippians 1:4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, - Prayer here always happens, and it always includes joy, and it is pretty extensive; it includes all.

Philippians 1:5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. The Philippians offered their friendship and their financial support to Paul and, in essence, partnered with him in the ministry of spreading the Gospel.

from the first day until now. From the start. They did not wait for his ministry to become a mega-church.

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Like the church of Laodicea, we can be "wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked..." (Revelation 3:17) But there is hope.

God is the author and the perfecter of our faith: Hebrews 12:1-3

Romans 8:26-28 He works all things out for Good.

2 Corinthians 16-18

God completes the work and says that **it is Good.**

Philippians 1:6b He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Until the second coming of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Great News! God will complete the work He began in you. You now stand in Victory, you walk in victory, you defend from Victory!

3. In My Heart – Philippians 1:7-11

Philippians 1:7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

The Philippians are easy to pray for: - you all are partakers of grace with me. They partnered with Paul; they loved Paul; they prayed for Paul.

Philippians 1:8 – Paul’s affection.

For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:9 More prayer:

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,

- a. Love to abound still more and more
- b. In Real knowledge
- c. All discernment

In Paul, we see the heart of a pastor.

Sometimes as pastors, we have to correct you:

Proverbs 9:8, James 1:5

Philippians 6:10 – This is the why.

so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

True sincerity comes with repentance. You need to approve the things that are excellent.

Philippians 6:11

11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Lord told his disciples in **John 16:33:**

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage (be of good cheer NKJV); I have overcome the world.”

We need to hear this, time and time again, until we internalize it and the Word of God becomes the truth that rules our hearts and speaks louder than the lying shouts of Satan.

So Paul writes: Philippians 1:6

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Sometimes, unintentionally, you may even hurt others. Maybe that is why Paul starts his letter to the Philippians, saying, **“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**An interesting parallel with our outline tonight:
In My Thoughts, In My Prayers, In My Heart.
God is mindful of you. God loves you. God cares for you.**

**There is another interesting parallel that stands out to me:
We need to internalize God’s word, starting with our thoughts, then our prayers, and our hearts.**

Luke 6:45

We want your delight to be in the law of the Lord – that you may meditate in it night and day, and be like a tree firmly planted by a stream of water, that you may yield much fruit, that you may not wither, but prosper in what you do. (Psalm 1:2-3)

Can you imagine Paul’s heavenly reunion with the Christians from Philippi? What a marvelous and glorious event. We, too, can look forward to a glorious reunion with the saints who have gone to heaven before us.

Take courage, my brother, my dear sister:

Philippians 1:6

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Application:

- 1. You Are The Hurt And Broken, Yes; So Come to Jesus, Then Minister To Those Who Hurt - Point Them To Jesus.**
- 2. Remember That He Who Began A Good Work In You Will Be Faithful To Complete It. He Is Not Done With You Yet. So Keep Going.**
- 3. Pray For Others, Give Thanks For Believers In Your Life, And Be A Blessing To Them.**