

PHILIPPIANS

1: 6-8

Confidence in God's Work



HHBC



Holly Hills Bible Church

21 January 2024



¹ Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers
and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with
joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in
the gospel from the first day until now.

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. 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. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection
of Christ Jesus.



EGNATIAN WAY/ ROAD at Philippi Ruins



***Likely House Arrest Prison cell where Paul was during his letters to:
Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians & Philemon . . .***







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. Phil. 1:6

Context: Paul is thanking God 'in **all** my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for **you all**, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now [vs. 3-5]

'participation' = ***koinonia***: *intimacy, fellowship, communion* Paul has with the Philippians

Last week: Bob had there were 3 types of fellowship: 1) Fellowship w/ Christ (and His sufferings), 2) Fellowship with one another (revealed in their unity w/ one another); and 3) Fellowship with Paul (in financial giving) as evidenced in Phl 4:16: '*for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.*' [McCalley commentary]

The text really seems to imply that while Paul has intimacy/ common communion with them in Christ, he is referring to those gifts they sent

And ***koinonia*** has the alternative meaning in Strong's: *a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship*

Think: of all Paul is remembering vs. 3's thanking God for: going to Philippi, going to the river, finding Lydia & the women, then getting thrown into prison, then the saving of the Jailer & his family....



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. Phil. 1:6

Therefore: *‘in light of all I remember of you, and in my thankfulness for you all’ -*

I am confident of this very thing: *HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL PERFECT IT UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS*

Paul is perfect-tense confident about this: confident at a point in the past, not needing to be repeated again in the present. Paul has a settled, permanent conviction. (McCalley)

Is Paul confident in the ability of the Philippian believers to do and maintain good works?

NO. . . The one working is God Himself in their lives; He has a completed goal in mind; He has the timeline and He will bring it to perfection.

He will “perfect” it: *epiteleō*. He will bring it to its end, complete it, finish our good work

‘a good work’: is a singular good work: what singular good work is Paul referring to?

The key is the completion date: The Day of Christ Jesus, that’s when it’s done.



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. Phil. 1:6

WHAT IS THE GOOD WORK GOD WILL COMPLETE?

Our **glorification**: the completion of the work of salvation:

- I. We have been saved from the penalty of sin in the past [Rom 5:8-10];
- II. We are being saved from sin's power & its wreckage in the present [Rom 6; 8:2]; and last:
- III. We will be saved from the presence of sin [I Cor 15:50-57] Which will be a wonderful day of glorification in the yet future

In verse 6: God 'will perfect it' is future tense [future; active: God doing it; indicative: He will in fact do it]

Observation: the interesting twist on this passage: vs 3-5: *'I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now'*

Is he speaking of good works in the present? (participation in the furtherance of the Gospel, and Paul's financial means to do so, their active participation in it)? Yes: but he also. . . .

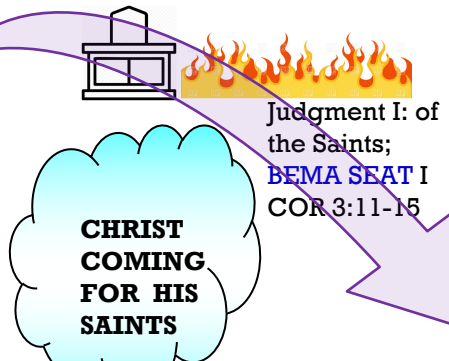
ties it into: the future end of it all: the return of the Lord- God's end goal for the believer



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. Phil. 1:6

DAY OF CHRIST JESUS: is up here

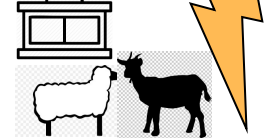
The good work completed; perfected up Here



Heavenly; in heaven

CHRIST COMING WITH HIS SAINTS

THE LIVING ARE JUDGED HERE.



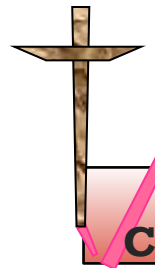
Judgment II: of the Living Nations; SHEEP/GOATS MAT 25:31-46

The DEAD are judged here:

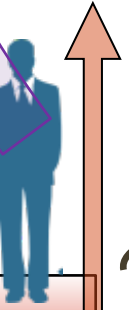
GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT REV 20:11



CHRIST = resurrection I THE FIRST FRUITS 1 COR 15:20-23



ALIVE IN CHRIST 1 TH. 4:17



DEAD IN CHRIST 1 THS 4:16

Earthly; on earth

DAY OF THE LORD: is down here

FINAL RESURRECTION (TO ETERNAL DEATH): UNBELIEVING DEAD FROM ALL AGES REV 20:5, 11-15

Resurrection III: OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS DAN 12:1-3 1 COR 15:23;

MILLENNIAL AGE: ISA 2, 4, 9, 32;

CHURCH AGE:

We are here: undetermined time

TRIBULATION AGE: Dan. 9; Mt. 24 - 7- years

1,000 years

TIMELINE: NOT TO SCALE ...



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. **Phil. 1:7**

Start with this verse at vs 7 part c.: ‘**you are all partakers of grace with me**’

From verse 3: we have seen that the Philippians participation, joint-partnership with Paul is the word ***koinonia***

Here, a partaker is simply adding a ***syn*** to the word: ***sygkoi-nōnos***. Or with-fellowshippers, with-participants of grace with him.

It is interesting how: ***koinonia*** is both a giving, and a partaking: a getting back as well

They are richly rewarded in God’s unmerited, undeserved favor together with Paul for their participation in his defense and confirmation of the gospel

By gifting his ministry (grace; ***charis***), they participate in his imprisonments, sufferings and floggings. Paul gets the brute- force physical end of the sufferings, but they will share in the rewards he will receive at the Day of Christ.

In spirit— says Constable, the Philippians were with him in prison and the defense and confirmation of the gospel.



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. **Phil. 1:7**

Now: going back to 7a and 7b:

‘I am more that justified’ to feel this way about you all. . . Is the flavor of ‘it is only right for me’

BECAUSE: you Philippians hold me fast in your hearts and I naturally have you in my heart as well [Constable & Wuest]

The Wuest translation: *Even as it is right for me to be constantly turning my mind in the direction of this very thing in your behalf (namely, the completion of God's good work in you), because you are holding me in your heart both in my bonds and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all being co-sharers with me in this grace.*

‘I have you in my heart’ : **kardia** is heart in Greek and it is the whole personality including: mind, will, intellect and emotions [Constable]

The word: ‘feel’ is **phroneō**, Constable says it’s a mind-set that leads to proper (moral) action. It is used only here and in I Tim. 5:5 (about young widows having ongoing ‘I want a husband’ feelings...)

But ‘I feel’ for you is developed throughout the letter: *‘I have feelings of joy for you’; ‘I have you in my heart’; “I long for you with all the affection of Christ Jesus”* in the next verse....

Philippians is a deeply personal letter for Paul; much more than all his others.



For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:8

Case in point for 'I feel for you': **"how I long for you all!"** 'With the affection of Christ Jesus'

Ironside: *Through the passing years he had kept them in his heart and presented them to God in prayer. There were sweet and blessed memories too that filled him with gladness as he looked back on the time of ministry spent among them and as he learned of their continuing in the grace of God.* [Philippians commentary pg. 19]

Point of wonder: Will, when Paul receives his crown at the Bema, will Lydia, Euodia, Syntyche, the Jailer and his family, and 'all' of them be standing there with Paul?

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. Phl 4:1

Ephaproditus: too had the same longing for them; ***epipotheō*** - same desire for them: ***"because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick"*** [2:26]



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. Phil. 1:6

ADDENDUM to 1:6: for discussion if time permits . . .

- In today's study; this verse strongly broadcasted to me: a (singular) good work of the perfection/completion of the Believer at the Rapture
- God's work in saving the believer from the Presence of the Sin Nature (in his/her glorification)
- Constable: also develops this line of thought (and very well)
- However: Wuest's take was more temporal; in the here and now –
- **“The word translated "confident," speaks of the fact that Paul had come to a settled persuasion concerning the fact that the God who had begun in the Philippians the good work of giving to missions, would bring it to a successful conclusion right up to the day of Christ Jesus. The word translated "until" assumes the nearness of the Rapture in Paul's mind and outlook.”**
- What say all of you? Is it temporal in giving/ participating with Paul up until the Rapture?
- Or is it broader & greater than that? Is it a doctrinal verse on ‘Things Yet Future’?

Beginning a Good Work! - A New Building! Fundraising Goal



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.

We are only here; more prayer needed

Target Date:

\$25,500,000

-
- \$40,000
- \$30,000
- \$20,000
- \$10,000
- \$5,000

(What is not the goal in view of Phl 3:3-6)