

# JOYFUL ASSURANCE: What God Starts, He Completes

Sunday, September 29, 2019 — Philippians: Joy From Jail series— Pastor Andrew Coleman

## Philippians 1:3-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

*3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 **And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.** 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

### REVIEW:

1. Last week we noticed the great difference in mere friendship and true fellowship.
2. **Friendship** tends to be built upon shared affinity (preferences, likes, similarities).
3. **True fellowship** comes from: [ Naval ship crew / Band of Brothers / Fellowship of the Ring ]
  - an infused common identity,
  - a pursued common purpose,
  - and opposed common enemies.
4. The **true fellowship of Christians** comes from:
  - our infused identity is salvation in Christ,
  - our pursued purpose is His kingdom / eternity,
  - our opposed enemies are Satan and this fallen world.
5. Paul and the Philippian believers display true fellowship in Christ.
6. Paul is on death row in Rome; the Philippians are under persecution and hardship.
7. YET! Paul declares his joyful gratitude to God and his deep affection for his Philippian brothers and sisters in Christ. *WHY?? HOW can he have this joy??*

## The Joyful ASSURANCE of God's Saving Work

1. Paul is grateful for God's work in the Philippians and their partnership with him. vs 3-8

They displayed great evidence of having saving faith...

- A) They loved him and he loved them. 3-8
- B) They listened to him. vs 5
- C) They prayed for him. vs 19
- D) They sent him support numerous times. Phil. 4:14; 16; 18; 2 Cor. 8:1-2
- E) They were concerned for him. vs 7
- F) They stood strong in the Gospel. vs 7 Phil. 4:10

\*\* Good works are the fruit not the root of true salvation. \*\*

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## 2. TRUE JOYFUL ASSURANCE comes from GOD'S WORK, not our work.

*And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*

**It wasn't Paul's work. It wasn't the Philippians' work. It was God's work that saved them.**

*began = enarchomai = 'to begin' or 'to inaugurate'*

Only used twice in the New Testament; both times regarding salvation.

### **Galatians 3:1-4**

*1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

- Salvation is solely a gracious work of God.
- God requires faith for salvation, but it is not something anyone can take credit for.
- Salvation comes by the power of God in response to faith.
- Faith itself is God's work -- it is divinely began and finished.

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

### **Philippians 1:29**

*For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,*

### **Philippians 2:13**

*for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**Acts 11:1-2 and 18** (the Jews realize that the Gospel is for Gentiles too...)

*Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life*

- Some believe readily. Some believe hesitatingly. God is glorified in both.

**Acts 16:14** (remember how Lydia came to faith??)

*the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken of by Paul*

**Acts 16:25-34** (remember how the Philippian jailer came to faith??)

*earthquake, about to commit suicide, 'Don't hurt yourself!' "What must I do to be saved?"*

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Salvation is solely by God's grace (undeserved favor).

#### Ephesians 1:3-14

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guaranteed of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

#### John 6:35-40

**35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. **40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

#### John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**THE GOSPEL** -- The good news that Christ died in the place of sinners to save them from their sin... and all who will believe him and receive him will be eternally saved from being cut off from God.

- **Have you heard the Gospel and believed it?** then REJOICE!  
-- Also, take heart that GOD is going to see you through -- TRUST HIM.
- **Have you heard the Gospel and not believed it?** then RECONSIDER!  
-- Perhaps you might begin praying, "Lord, help my unbelief. Come do what I cannot do."