

0190 053 Are you a gold or silver vessel or wood and earthenware?

08/10/97 Phi 1:6; 2Ti 2:20-23; 1Th 4:4; 2Pe 1:5-7; Rom 8:29-30

Summary

The discussion centers on Philippians 1:3-6, emphasizing God's faithfulness in beginning and completing the good work of salvation. McLaughlin highlights that God the Father started this work at salvation and will complete it, conforming believers to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). Tests of genuine faith include operational faith (James 2:17-19), laborious love (1 John 3:14-19), and unwavering hope (Hebrews 6:17-19). The conversation also addresses the importance of progressive sanctification, the distinction between winner and loser believers, and the need for believers to be useful to the master, avoiding juvenile lusts and foolish speculations.

- **Faithfulness of God in Philippians 1:3-6** [0:00](#)
 - McLaughlin begins by reading Philippians 1:3, emphasizing the apostle Paul's gratitude for the memories of the believers.
 - The corrected translation of verses 3-6 is discussed, highlighting Paul's inner happiness due to the believers' contributions and gracious giving.
 - McLaughlin explains that God the Father began an absolute good work in believers at the day of salvation and will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - The ultimate goal of this work is to conform believers to the image of Jesus Christ, as stated in Romans 8:29.
- **Tests of Faith and Salvation** [4:46](#)
 - McLaughlin introduces a test from 2 Corinthians 13:5, urging believers to examine themselves to see if they are in the faith.
 - The first test is based on James 2:17-19, where faith without works is considered dead.
 - The second test involves laborious love, as described in 1 John 3:14-19, emphasizing love in deeds and truth.
 - The third test is based on Hebrews 6:17-19, focusing on the believer's hope and confidence in God's plan.
- **Manifestations of Salvation** [9:50](#)
 - McLaughlin elaborates on the importance of divine good works, impersonal unconditional love, and hope in the plan of God.
 - The Philippian church is used as an example of believers who did not get discouraged and came back stronger after setbacks.
 - The principle that God will advance His plan despite setbacks is emphasized.
 - McLaughlin reminds believers that God the Father began the good work in them and will complete it, reducing the pressure on believers to maintain their salvation.
- **God's Unchangeable Promise** [14:40](#)

- McLaughlin references Ephesians 2:10 and 2:7 to illustrate that God will not permit His enemies to destroy His purposes.
- The importance of God's promise to keep believers from stumbling is highlighted, referencing Jude 24.
- McLaughlin emphasizes that God's words and nature are unchangeable, ensuring that the good work He began will be completed.
- The concept of eternal security and perseverance is discussed, with believers encouraged to have humility, watchfulness, gratitude, and zeal.
- **Free Volition and Its Impact** [22:00](#)
 - McLaughlin explains that believers have the responsibility to make good decisions and work with God in their lives.
 - The distinction between winner believers and loser believers is made, with winner believers being those who work with God and become winners in this life.
 - The importance of being useful to the master and having a positive impact on history is emphasized.
 - McLaughlin concludes by urging believers to examine themselves and ensure they are vessels of honor, sanctified, and useful to the master.