

From Beginning To End: Part 8

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Philippians 1:6 NLT

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

At the closing of our 8 part series, this profound truth that Paul spoke to the church of Philippi should be embedded within our hearts. From Beginning to End is the very thing that we all face everyday and throughout life. From Beginning to End God has ordained and strategically orchestrated every detail about our life. The question that must be asked is have we allowed the purpose to point us towards Jesus? Not to the acknowledgement of His deity but a life surrendered to build His Kingdom from Beginning to End.

In the last 7 weeks we have only scratched the surface of Beginning to End but here are a few of the things we have highlighted:

- Part 1: “God separated light from darkness – likewise, our walk begins with separation from sin.”
- Part 2: “Like a seed that dies to its shell, we must die to the flesh so the new life God planted can grow. This dying leads to growing roots so that the seed may feed.”
- Part 3: “Roots must go deep by feeding on the Word, or our faith won’t withstand trials. Deep roots are the anchor for the plant. The word of God is our anchor in the storm.”
- Part 4: “Deep roots produce visible fruit that proves what we really are. Our fruit is the manifestation of what has happened beneath the surface. ”
- Part 5: “Acceptance of God appointed suffering. Not to be confused with self-inflicted suffering. God appointed suffering is purpose to mature us in Christ.”
- Part 6: “God-appointed suffering and the shaking in life mature us and strip away what’s dead, so we reflect Christ more.”
- Part 7: “We addressed the aged old question of why does bad things happen to good people. But the question must be rephrased within our hearts. Instead of why does this happen to what does God desire to reveal through this. This theology contradicts our natural or carnal mindset but if we have any comprehension of Jesus being the author and finisher of our faith then must renew our minds.”

In Part 8 we will take a small journey through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We will be subtitled this part as: From End to Beginning!

Matthew 3:13–17 NLT

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” 15 But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. 16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Many may view this as just a simple baptism or that Jesus had to be baptized before He could begin His ministry. But the reality that He faced is the same that we must all face. The full acceptance of God’s purpose and will. From there He was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. A place and a season to see if Jesus would have corresponding actions that accompanied the words He spoke. His alone time proved that His character would be the same in the public eye. In Luke 4:14-20

Luke 4:14–21 NLT

14 Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. 15 He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. 17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: 18 “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.” 20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

This scripture defined His ministry in every perimeter. His proclamation to the poor, the suffering, alienated, and marginalized would be the focal point of His mission. Jesus pursued a multifaceted purpose by revealing God the Father, redeeming the lost, and dismantling Satan’s dominion. He came to heal the brokenhearted, deliver captives from sin’s penalty and power, and restore spiritual sight to those blinded by darkness of deception. He came to establish His reign in the hearts of all mankind. Fulfillment of this scripture was not futuristic but constituted fulfillment because of His presence in the call of God. Fulfillment by walking out His assignment.

Fulfillment didn’t mean that the work was completed but that it was continuous. Fulfillment happened with every act of obedience. And this same truth must be evident within us. As I have stated many time that Jesus is everyone’s Savior but He is not

everyone's Lord. Walking out the fulfillment that God has purposed for us is what makes Him Lord. Notice that Jesus stated in Luke 6:46-49

Luke 6:46-49 NLT

46 "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? 47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

Savior is what He is, Lord is who He is. This is why the church has failed to teach the full counsel of God's word. We speak of what He is but fail to speak of His position in our lives. Jesus being Lord is the continuation of fulfilling the purpose that we have been called to! Jesus being Lord is despite whether our valleys or mountain tops are favorable or not. Our relationship with Jesus is not dictated by the severity of the storm or whether we get what we want. His Lordship is based off of our obedience.

As we move towards the ending of Jesus's life we will see that He continued to fulfill all the way to the end with the beginning in mind.

As Jesus was standing trial and Pilate was about to sentence Him, he gave the people a choice and many people have overlooked this choice. Simply because they continue to choose what is not right. Turn with me to Matthew 27:12-18

Matthew 27:12-17 NLT

12 But when the leading priests and the elders made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. 13 "Don't you hear all these charges they are bringing against you?" Pilate demanded. 14 But Jesus made no response to any of the charges, much to the governor's surprise. 15 Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. 16 This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas. 17 As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Matthew 27:20-23 NLT

20 Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. 21 So the governor asked again, "Which of these two do you want me to release to you?" The crowd shouted

back, “Barabbas!” 22 Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” 23 “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”

Barabbas is translated: Son of the Father. And who was Jesus? So of the Father. The people chose the wrong son. And the one that deserved to die was set free while the one that was innocent was sentenced to die a criminal's death. The only guilt that Jesus had was doing the work of the one who had sent him. But Jesus did not need to defend himself. Look at what Jesus said in John 10:17-18

John 10:17–18 NLT

17 “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

Man could not take what He had already surrendered to God. This same truth must be effective for us too! If we willingly lay down our life for the sake of fulfilling God's purpose then the persecution and condemnation of man is null and void. It is of no effect!

John 19:28–30 NLT

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. 30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It is finished! Translated in the Greek it is: Tetelestai. This Greek word derives from telos meaning “end” or “goal” but in the perfect tense it refers to an action completed in the past that continues to have present impact. Meaning that it has taken place and is still taking place. Another rendering of this phrase is: “It has, is, and will always be complete.”

Matthew 28:1–7 NLT

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to

the woman. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

Matthew 28:16–20 NLT

16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Jesus’s death cannot be separated from His resurrection. And His resurrection cannot be separated from His commission. The commission to bring Heaven to earth. **MAKE DISCIPLE!** Teaching these new disciples to obey every truth that Jesus had commanded.

If Jesus is your Lord then us making disciples is the continuation of fulfilling what God has purposed us for.

In the book of Luke Jesus told the disciples to occupy until He returns. We are to live in a manner that He is coming back right now but we are to conduct ourself with continuing to make disciples.

Acts 1:9–11 NLT

9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

Jesus resurrected and ascending just as He said He would but He also that He was returning and that He is coming for a body that is without spot and wrinkle. Are you saying that I need to be perfect Pastor? No....but you are called to be holy as God is holy. This means that we are a striking resemblance of His character.

Judas thought He was doing Jesus a favor by forcing His hand but what Judas didn't realize is that the hand he was dealing was not going to end in his favor. We are still witnessing this today. People are still betraying Jesus today because His fulfillment does not fit their theology. Isn't this what happened to Judas? He traded Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and Judas actually had pure motives. Many of us in here today may have pure motives. Let me give you an example: I know I need to surrender my life but I'm not ready. I would say this is a pure motive. But the reality is that some of you may decide to walk out the same way you came in. So you know what that means? You just traded Jesus for whatever is more important than laying down your life. Pastor that is a harsh and bold statement. I know but tell me it's not the truth. Jesus said many hard things and many people continued to walk away. He came for a purpose and it was so that you could have eternal life not forever judgement. But it is only a decision that you can make! What will be your choice today? Will you bow your knee and make Him Lord today? Which Barabbas will you choose?

Let me pray with you!