

Philippians 1:6-11

Verse 6

A good work – In context this is their participation in the gospel mentioned in verse 5 and in verse 7. Note also 4:14-19.

Salvation in the New Testament is always viewed as a process.

Justified – Saved from the penalty of sin the moment we believe.

Sanctified – Saved from the power of sin as we grow in Christ.

Glorified – Saved from the presence of sin when we receive our glorified body.

“God had justified the Philippians, He would also continue to sanctify, and eventually glorify, them. Whereas we have a hand in the process of sanctification, and can affect it by our obedience or disobedience, God alone justifies us. Regardless of our carnality or spirituality, He will also glorify us. This verse does not teach that God will keep all Christians faithfully persevering in the faith and in good works until they die. Believers can and do resist, oppose, and limit God’s sanctifying work in them.”

(Thomas Constable)

Note - 1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:17-18, 4:10

Until the day of Christ Jesus - The day when Jesus will return for His church: the Rapture. Salvation will be completed, our works will be examined and we will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There are numerous references to this “day” in Scripture.

Verse 7

To feel this way – This is the first use of another key word in Philippians (*phroneo*), which means “to have understanding” or “to think”. The idea is a mindset that expresses itself in proper action. This word occurs 10 times in Philippians (1:7, 2:2, 2:5, 3:15, 19, 4:2, 10).

I have you in my heart – Because of their participation with him in ministry while he was in prison and their joint efforts in spreading the gospel.

Defense = “*apologia*” from which we get apologetics.

Confirmation – This word means to guarantee or make firm. It is used only here and Hebrews 6:16.

Partakers of grace with me – Paul and the Philippians partook together of the enabling grace that God provides for those who defend and confirm the gospel.

Verse 8

God is my witness – This oath was the strongest way Paul could express his love and appreciation for them.

The affection of Jesus Christ – Paul’s love and affection were based on his relationship in Christ. It is because we are brothers and sisters in Christ that we can truly love one another.

Verses 9-10

Paul now explains what he prays for the Philippians (verses 3-4).

Paul’s petition is threefold:

1 – *That your love may abound still more and more.*

a – In real knowledge

b – In all discernment

2 – *So that you may approve the things that are excellent...*

Most choices that a *spiritual* believer faces are not between morally good and morally evil things. The choices believers face are between things of lesser and greater value. The things that we choose *because we love them* reflect how discerning our love really is.

3 – *In order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.*

Sincere – From a word that means “the sun’s ray”. The idea is something that is pure when examined by the sun’s light.

Blameless – This word carries the idea of “not offending” or not “causing someone else to stumble”.

“There are people who are themselves faultless, but who are so hard and harsh and austere that they in the end drive people away from Christianity. There are people who are good, but they are so critical of others that they repel other people from goodness. The Christian is himself pure, but his love and his gentleness are such that he attracts others to the Christian way and never repels them from it.” (William Barclay)

Verse 11

Having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ...

-It is the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

-It is produced by God’s discipline in our lives Hebrews 12:11.

-It is the result of sowing the seed of Godly wisdom in peace, James 3:18.

It comes through Jesus Christ...

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” (2:5)

To the glory and praise of God – The ultimate goal of being Christ like in the way we live.

Three thoughts of Paul in 1:1-11:

I have you in my mind (3-6)

I have you in my heart (7-8)

I have you in my prayers (9-11)

(Warren Wiersbe)