

From Start to Finish

Philippians 1.6 is just an amazing passage. It explains Paul's eager joy of anticipation. It explains God's work from start to finish. For him, at that moment, things going on around him definitely weren't perfect, but he had such a trust in God that he chose to look ahead and know God was going to work it out in the end. He decided to operate from the perspective of obtaining joy from what the church in Philippi would ultimately be, verses concentrating only from the perspective of how things currently were.

I. Paul's Confidence in What God Started

- A. 1.6: *I am **sure** of this...* Paul is: "convinced, confident, persuaded, and assured."
- B. 1.6: *that he who **started** a good work in you will carry it on to completion.*
 - 1. "Start," points to our salvation. "To inaugurate." Your salvation is the work of God.
 - a) Titus 3.5: **he saved us**—*not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*
 - b) See 2 Thessalonians 2.13; James 1.18. Salvation is by God's will.
 - 2. We must yield and do so in our baptism, Titus 3.5.

II. Paul's Confidence in What God Will Complete

- A. *I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to **completion**...*
- B. You can rest on God's promises:
 - 1. Romans 5.10: *For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his **life**.*
 - 2. Hebrews 7.25: *... he always lives to **intercede** for them.*
- C. Philippians 3.16-17:
 - 1. 3.16: *In any case, we should **live up to** whatever truth we have attained.*
 - 2. 3.17: *Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and pay careful **attention** to those who live according to the example you have in us.*
 - 3. **We persevere. God perseveres.**
 - 4. 2 Timothy 2.19: *God's solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: The Lord knows those who are his, and let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.*
- D. God perseveres with the understanding of who we are. See Romans 8.29-39.
 - 1. A work in progress: God wants you to be **conformed** to the image of Christ. See Romans 8.29.
 - 2. Philippians 1.6: God will see it through to the day of Christ.

III. As We Close...

- A. Your Salvation is not Tenuous
 - 1. Psalm 89.33: *But I will not withdraw my faithful love from him or betray my faithfulness.*
 - 2. Romans 11.29: *God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable.*
 - 3. Jude 24: *Now to him who is able to **protect** you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy,*
- B. God is working inside you & your family
- C. God is working inside this church