

Philippians: God Will Finish

May 3, 2023

Philippians: God Will Finish

Jesse Berthold / May 3, 2023



GOD WILL FINISH

PURPOSE: Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians to thank them for the gift they had sent him and to strengthen them by showing them where true joy comes from!

DATE WRITTEN: A.D. 61

THE SETTING: Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote this letter.

1. Paul started this church on his second missionary journey (See Acts 16:11-40)

Acts 16:11-15 (NLT) 11 We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. 12 From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there

several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. 14 One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. 15 She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.

2. This was the first church started on the European Continent.

3. The Philippian church had sent Paul a gift with Epaphroditus (Who was one of their members) to be delivered to Paul. (See Phil. 4:18)

Philippians 4:18 (NLT) 18 At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

4. At the time of the writing of this letter, Paul was in a Roman Prison.

5. Paul wrote this letter to thank them for their gift and to encourage them in their faith.

KEY VERSE: Philippians 4:4 (NLT) 4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

IMPORTANT FACT: We learn the secret to Paul’s joy in this little letter...

• **The secret to Paul’s joy is grounded in his relationship with Jesus!**

Philippians 1:1-5 (NLT) 1 This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God’s holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. 2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you

have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

Verse 4... Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

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.

Certain = “Know for sure” or “Established beyond doubt”

Verse 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.

QUESTION = What is He working on?...

- **Our character...**

Verse 6b... “will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns”

God’s work FOR US began when....

- **Jesus died on the cross in our place...**

God’s work IN US began when...

- **We trusted Jesus as our Savior...**

God’s work TAKES AFFECT as we...

- **Yield to the Holy Spirit...**

Don’t let your current condition rob you of the joy of knowing that God is still working on you!

FIRST: DON’T LOSE HEART; GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

1 Corinthians 1:7-9 (NLT) 7 Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SECOND: BE PATIENT WITH OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS; GOD IS STILL WORKING ON THEM TOO!

Colossians 3:13-15 (NLT) 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT) 2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

THIRD: VALUE THE WORK THAT GOD IS DOING

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.