

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of October 11, 2020

To Completion

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 1:6-8](#)

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

- Two things jump out at us in this passage:
 - God finishes what He starts
 - The nature of Christian fellowship
- Paul has great joy because he sees that God is at work in the Philippians. From the beginning (actually, *before* the beginning), He is at work. If He is at work, then we can work.
- God's involvement, His initiative, His preservation of us, is the very ground of our experience of confidence in the Christian life.
- "Through many dangers, toils, and Snares, I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, [*And now I'll take it from here? No, no, no, no, no!*] And grace will lead me home." (*Amazing Grace, John Newton, 1772*)
- But there is both an individual and a corporate aspect to this truth
- "The gates of Hell..." ([Matthew 16:18](#))
- And this work is not complete in this life
- Secondly, there is a deep affection between Paul and the Philippians. The unity of the church is based on our common experience of and embrace of the sovereign, saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, and the mission that grows out of that.
- There is a swell a fellowship that grows out of a kind of suffering.
- "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." ([Psalm 121](#))
- "When we can truly grasp that nothing in heaven or on earth can take away the life we have in Christ, we can release our grip from our own obsession with self-preservation and trust them to our Creator. This is how goodness and mercy can follow us even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. This is why those who lose their life will find it. This is what it means that though put to death not a hair on your head will perish. This is the reason, like Job, we can lift our eyes in worship, declare with Paul that to die is gain, and sing along with the Reformer, Martin Luther, '*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.*' This is no false assurance, this is our eternal hope in Jesus Christ." (*Megan Taylor*)

A For Further Study: *Philippians 1:6-8*

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- What does “**he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion**” mean? (6)
- What exactly is this **good work**?
- What is the **completion date** of this good work? Why is this important to understand?
- How would you describe **Paul’s relationship with the Philippian church**?
- **Are you discouraged** as a Christian? Is the truth of verse 6 a **source of encouragement to you**? Why?
- Paul insists his feelings toward the Philippians are “**right**” (7). **Why might he say this**?
- What is “**grace**” (7)? Paul talks about his various circumstances and **fellowship in God’s grace** he has with the Philippians. What does this show us about **the nature of God’s grace**?
- Paul **holds** the Philippians **in his heart** (7). He **yearns** for them “with the **affection of Christ Jesus**” (8). What does this tell us about what **Paul believes**? What does this reveal about the **heart of Jesus Christ**? What does teach us about **Christian ministry**?
- Do you have a **deep love** for other believers? Spend some time **asking the Lord** to grow in us the **compassion & heart of Christ Jesus**. Ask the Lord for **confidence to trust** that He is faithfully at work in us and our brothers & sisters in Christ.

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