

Series: Philippians Series 2024
Title: Christ Began, Christ Will Finish
Text: Php 1: 6
Date: Jan 25, 2024
Place: SGBC, NJ

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Perseverance of the saints means those given faith shall continue to the end trusting Christ. But perseverance is by God our Savior preserving us. Preservation is God keeping his children so that all shall continue in the faith trusting Christ unto he calls us home.

Proposition: God begins the work in his saints and God shall finish it until the day of Jesus Christ.

OUR BEGINNING

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that HE which hath BEGUN a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

How we begin in faith determines who our confidence will be to continue in the faith unto the end.

Hebrews 3:14: For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Whoever is our beginning confidence will be our confidence as we continue. For those truly called, the beginning of our confidence is Christ alone! The confidence of God's saints is not ourselves. Our confidence is not our brethren's fleshly strength. We have no confidence in the flesh. Our confidence is Christ—"*Being confident of this very thing, that HE...*"

How did you begin to have the gospel preached to you? How did Paul preach the gospel at Philippi? Christ sent him there.

Acts 16: 6: Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,...9: And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Did you come to the gospel? Some say they were saved under the lie of arminianism then later came to the doctrines of grace? God does not begin the work through the message that gives glory to the sinner. Or did Christ send the gospel in truth and begin this work in you?

If our confidence is that we put ourselves under the preaching of the gospel then we will be confident in ourselves that we can provide ourselves the gospel. How we begin determines who are confidence will be. But if our confidence is that Christ sent the gospel to us and planted us where he established the gospel for us then Christ will be our confidence that he will keep the gospel being preached to us right where he planted us.

Lydia was the first one called to faith at Philippi. Who began that inward work in her?

Acts 16:14...whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Did you make yourself to be born-again? Or did the Lord do it? Did you muster up faith? Or did God give you faith by grace? If our beginning was something we did, rather than the power of the Holy Spirit regenerating us, then our confidence will be in self. If we gave our heart to Jesus then our confidence will be self. If we began by ourselves then our confidence will not be the power of God to keep us, it will be our own will and strength.

Who sanctified these brethren? Who separated them and consecrated them for God's holy use? They would say what the apostle Paul said,

Galatians 1: 15: But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, 16: To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

These brethren at Philippi were taught what Jeremiah was taught. God said to Jeremiah,

Jeremiah 1:5: Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

The Lord Jesus, as the servant of God, was sanctified—set apart and consecrated—by God the Father, same as his people are. Christ declares,

Isaiah 49:1: Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name...5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the

womb *to be* his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

Christ is our Sanctifier and our Sanctification.

Hebrews 2:11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,...

Christ is Sanctifier. He sends the Holy Spirit through the gospel and Christ is formed in you—“*HE which hath begun a good work IN YOU.*” He sent Paul to those Christ redeemed and through the gospel, Christ begins this work. He said,

Acts 26:18: To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

When Christ sanctifies us inwardly the Spirit turns us to Christ on the cross and to Christ at God’s right hand and he teaches us Christ is our Sanctification at God’s right hand.

Hebrews 10:10: By [Christ fulfilling God’s] will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*....14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Christ is our Sanctifier who sent the gospel to us, who sent the Holy Spirit unto us so that Christ is formed in us. Then the Spirit of Christ makes us behold Christ sanctified us on the cross. Then we know and are confident Christ is our Sanctification seated at God’s right hand. Since Christ is the Sanctifier who began the work, our confidence is that Christ will continue to keep us separated unto him, partaking of his holiness.

Since God our Father predestinated us to sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, whereunto HE called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of Christ, we glorify God our Father for sanctifying us. Notice, the work of sanctification is spoken of in the past tense. When God our Father has worked this, we are then saints, sanctified into Christ in our experience of it.

Colossians 1: 12: Give thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: [that is sanctification—separated out from darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son] 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:... 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel,...27:...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Since God began the work, God will keep his child wholly sanctified in Christ, preserved blameless in and by Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23: And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24: Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

But if the beginning of our confidence is that we separated ourselves and made ourselves holy then we will imagine sanctification is by our works. The same is true if we think we have made ourselves righteous before the law. Then our confidence for holiness and righteousness will be self.

Every sinner matures in life. Even most unregenerate sinner stops carrying on outwardly like he did. But if a sinner thinks he sanctified himself in the beginning then as he matures naturally in life, he will become more confident that he sanctified himself. He will grow more and more confident in self, which is to go farther and farther into unbelief.

All the children of Israel were separated and came out of Egypt in body. But not all were sanctified and came out spiritually in heart. For some, the beginning of their confidence was self. That is why they would not enter the promised land. After spying it out, they did not have confidence in self that they had strength to overcome the giants in the land. But the Lord began the work in Joshua and Caleb. So their confidence to enter the land was Christ alone!

Numbers 14:8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

OUR CONTINUANCE TO THE END

Philippians 1: 6: Being confident of this very thing, that HE which hath begun a good work in you WILL PERFORM it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Since God began the work in his saints, God will finish it. Christ is the believer’s confidence that he shall persevere in faith unto the end. But how we can be sure? Is God able to finish the work?

God is holy. That is why he sent his Son to lay down his life for his elect to make us righteous. Christ blood justified those our Substitute represented so that the law has no claim on us. There is now no condemnation—no judgment—to them that are in Christ Jesus. To them that walk after the Spirit—minding Christ, having all confidence in Christ, rather than minding the flesh and the law—Christ shall keep unto the end. We trust Christ alone and walk by faith by the Spirit of God, rather than minding the flesh by our own strength. Since God is holy, God will not punish sin twice. God shall begin this work in each one Christ redeemed. And God shall finish it. The reason is because God is satisfied in and by Christ's one offering. Therefore, God shall not lose one. He is holy. Christ said,

John 10: 27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

1 Samuel 12:22: For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

But is God our Father and his Son, Christ Jesus, able to keep us until the day of his return? Our Savior is God. He spoke heaven and earth into existence. He upholds all things by the word of his power. He was able to begin the work in sinners like us. He is able to keep his people to the end.

God our Savior is immutable. Christ is able to save because his priesthood is forever.

Hebrews 7: 24: But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25: Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

God cannot lie. He made an everlasting covenant with us ordered in all things and sure in and by Christ Jesus. This is God's promise to you in whom he has begun the work.

Jeremiah 32:40: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

His promise to us is the same as to Jacob.

Genesis 28:15: And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

God our Father chose us by grace. He redeemed us by grace. He regenerated and sanctified us by grace. He shall keep us by grace.

2 Corinthians 9:8: And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

WHY DID GOD LEAVE US IN THIS SINFUL BODY OF DEATH IN THIS WICKED WORLD?

As God continues to save us, God grows our confidence in our Lord Jesus and less in ourselves. Everything Christ brings to pass in our lives, together with the preaching of the gospel, is to teach us to have no confidence in our flesh but only in Christ.

Philippians 3: 3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

In all the various trials believers go through in life, God is teaching us "in my flesh dwells no good thing" (Rom 7: 18). This is one thing our Lord teaches all his people. Saints of old were taught the same thing. The psalmist said,

Psalm 38:7: For my loins are filled with a loathsome *disease*: and *there is* no soundness in my flesh.

Put no confidence in our flesh, nor any other Put all confidence in Christ alone

Brethren, there could be no perseverance of the saints was it not for God preserving us. But if God did not allow Satan to fire his fiery arrows we would never know the weakness of our flesh. If Christ did not permit us to see the weakness of our flesh, we would never know how helpless we are nor how faithful and powerful God is to keep us. In every trial, Christ teaches us our strength is to believe Christ and trust him to save. Our shield of faith is Christ himself, who our faith trusts to keep us.

Ephesians 6: 16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Psalm 56:3: What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

1 John 5:5: Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 Peter 5: 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10: But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. 11: To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

When the apostle Paul was opposed by the entire city of Athens, when he was taken to Italy and put in bonds, no one stood with him. But this is what Christ is teaching us. This is what Christ taught Paul.

2 Timothy 4: 16: At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge. 17: Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18: And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

When you see a brother or sister enter a trial, watch—believe Christ and pray unto Christ to save them. If the Lord opens the door for you to speak a word to them then remind them of these things. Then pray to him to bless his word and wait on him. These trials are necessary. Let patience have her perfect work. Christ is teaching that brother/sister to have all confidence in him and none in the flesh.

Hebrews 2:18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Christ is the Master of that brother or sister who is in the trial.

Romans 14:4:...to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Brethren, right now, I believe Christ is able. I may need you to remind me tomorrow. But I will remind you and you remind me. Let's do that for one another. Abraham and Paul were fully persuaded that God is able to fulfill every covenant promise. Do we believe God is able?

Romans 4: 21 [Abraham was] fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

2 Timothy 1: 12: For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Jude 24: Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25: To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Amen!