

Scripture: Acts 16:11-34

LD. 13:33

Singing: 242:1-4 – 236:1-4 – 248:1-4 – 429:1, 4

Let's Study Philippians (3)

How important is it to *be aware of your identity – of who you are?*

A. The awareness of our identity has a major impact on our living

1. True for natural life
2. True for spiritual life

THE PORTRAIT OF CHRISTIAN (2)

I. Thankful & joyful II. Praying III. Confident

III. Paul was a confident or assured man

A. Paul was full of thanksgiving – joy: why?

1. Vs. 7: *because I have you in my heart*
2. Vs. 6: *because he is confident about the work of God in them*

B. Paul's confidence about the work of God He began in Philippian believers

1. What is his confidence
2. In whom is his confidence
 - a. in God Who began His good work (6a)
 - b. God's good work goes back farther point of time in vs. 5
 - Eph. 2:1 is rooted in Eph. 1:4, 5
 - c. the example of God's good work in Lydia (Acts 16:14)
3. What does the 'good work' consist of?
 - a. new birth: *when God creates new life/heart within us by Word/Spirit*
 - b. faith/repentance: *also these are God's grace gifts* (vs. 29; Eph. 2:8)
 - c. conversion: *we are Jesus' workmanship, created unto good works* (Eph. 2:10)

C. Paul's confidence is about the work of God He will perform until day of Jesus

1. Performing defined:

a. verb form is both *intensive and continuous*

b. this is to encourage all God's children – servants – saints

- truth of God's preservation of all saints is the grand secret of the perseverance in faith and good works
- Rom. 11:29; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Peter 1:5

2. When will He (Father) perform (complete) it: *on Jesus' big day!*

a. God's work is on schedule

- when the day comes, it comes as He willed it (2 Peter 3:9-10)

b. yet that is not primarily about *our redemption*: Phil. 2:10-11

LIVING ON AND LIVING OUT THE TRUTH ...

A. Are you living in the confidence of your salvation as an adopted child of God?

1. Important to *strive to be assured* (2 Peter 1:10)

2. Seek it in the Biblical way (Canons I, 12; V, 10, rej. 5)

3. Don't despise the evidence (Phil. 3:3ff)

4. Why important to strive to be assured about being a child of God?

Assurance

God has never torn up or changed a Christian's birth certificate.

The fact that a Christian may be uncertain does not mean he is insecure.

Though no man merits assurance by his obedience,
Yet God usually crowns obedience with assurance. (T. Brooks)

The work which His goodness began, the arm of strength will complete.
Things future, nor things that are now, not all things below nor above,
Can make Him His purpose forgo or sever my soul from His love. (Toplady)

God's sprouted seed will come to God's harvest. (S. Rutherford)