

Philippians Series

Lesson #009

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

Partnership in the Gospel

Philippians 1:5–8



Php. 1:5, “for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” ~NKJV

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Two questions we need to answer:

1. For what is Paul thankful?

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Two questions we need to answer:

1. For what is Paul thankful?

2. For what is he confident?

Two Interpretations:

- 1. By far the most popular way to understand this verse is that it relates to salvation. The “good work” mentioned either refers to Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification.**

Three Stages of Salvation

PHASE ONE



Justification

**Saved from
Penalty of Sin
“you were saved”**

PHASE TWO

**Spiritual
Life**

Text

**Saved from
Power of Sin
“you are being saved”**

PHASE THREE

Glorification

**Saved from
Presence of Sin
“you will be saved”**



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Two forms:

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Two forms:

- a. God graciously works in the believer’s life to enable them to grow, if they are willing.**
- b. A genuine believer in Jesus Christ who is truly regenerate, will persevere in faith and good works, until God glorifies them following their death or the Rapture.**

The Reformed/Lordship/Calvinist View

French Confession of Faith of 1559 (Article XXI) claim the verse for perseverance:

“We believe also that faith is given to the elect not only to introduce them into the right way, but also to make them continue in it to the end. For as it is God who hath begun the work, He will also perfect it.”

The Reformed/Lordship/Calvinist View

The Lordship Salvation of John MacArthur:

“That ongoing work of grace in the Christian’s life is as much a certainty as justification, glorification, or any other aspect of God’s redeeming work ... [Php. 1:6 is quoted] ... Salvation is wholly God’s work, and He finishes what He starts. His grace is sufficient. And potent. It cannot be defective in any regard.”

Three Problems with This View:

- 1. Salvation, either as Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification, is not mentioned in this opening introduction or prayer. Neither are in the context.**

Three Problems with This View:

- 2. Second, it must be observed that Paul writes of a singular “good work,” not of plural “good works.” Further, Paul states he is confident of this thing, a singular noun, most English translations supply the singular “it” referring to this good work, to be more understandable.**

Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that by grace through faith salvation is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph. 2:9, “not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Eph. 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” ~NKJV

Three Problems with This View:

- 3. The context is Paul's gratitude for their partnership in the gospel, specifically their financial partnership with his ministry, which is not the same as either Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification.**

Outline

- 1A Introduction: Paul's concern for the Philippians, Php. 1:1–11**
- 1B Greeting, Php. 1:1–2**
- 2B Paul's concern and prayer for the Philippians, Php. 1:3–8**
- 3B Paul's prayer that their spiritual growth will result in the praise and glory of God, Php. 1:9–11**

- 2A Paul's joy for the expansion of the gospel, Php. 1:12–26**

- 6A The conclusion, Php. 4:10–20**

What does “fellowship” mean?

Php. 1:5, “for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD

**κοινωνία *koinōnia* fem sing dat
fellowship, participation; society;
partnership**

Paul uses *koinonia* and *sugkoinonea* as key words, which focus on the Philippians' financial contribution and partnership for the expansion of the gospel ministry.

Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

συγκοινωνός (*synkoinōnos*)

Php. 4:15, “Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.”

κοινωνέω (*koinōneō*)

Php. 4:14, “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.” ~NKJV

**Php. 4:14, “Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.”
~ESV**

The ESV has a note by “share” that this means to have fellowship in Paul’s adversities.

Php. 4:14, “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.” ~NKJV

συγκοινωνέω *sugkoinōneō*

aorist act participle masc plur nom

**to take part in; participate in with
someone, be connected with, share**

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κοινωνέω *koinōneō*

**3 sing aor act indic to
share, take part,
participate in, give/
contribute or be a partner
in**

Php. 1:5, “for your partnership for [*eis*] the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD

**κοινωνία *koinōnia* fem sing dat
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Rom. 15:26, “For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.”

2 Cor. 9:13, “while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,”

Php. 1:5, “for your partnership for [*eis*] the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD

The first day of the congregation sending financial contributions to Paul (Php. 4:15).

Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” ~NKJV

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συγκοινωνός (*synkoinōnos*)

“Rather *ergon agathon* finds its explanation in the fact that the Philippians were partners with Paul in the gospel (vs. 5), and shared their resources with him to make the proclamation of the gospel possible. This ‘sharing in the gospel’ is the *good work* referred to here (cf. 2 Cor. 8:6) [italics original].”

~Hawthorne, *Word Biblical Commentary, Philippians*

2 Cor. 8:6, “So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.”

2 Cor. 8:6, “So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace [?] in you as well.”

προενάρχομαι

proenarchomai

3 sing aor mid indic “to begin;” Thayer: “to make a beginning before” or “to be the first to make a beginning”

ἐπιτελέω *epiteleō*

3 sing aor act subj

to complete, perform; bring to an end, accomplish

2 Cor. 8:1, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God which had already been given among the churches of Macedonia:

2 Cor. 8:2, “that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

2 Cor. 8:3, “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,”

2 Cor. 8:4, “imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship [*koinonia*] of the ministering [*diakonia*] to the saints.

2 Cor. 8:5, “And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

2 Cor. 8:6, “So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.”

2 Cor. 8:7, “But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.

2 Cor. 8:8, “I speak not by commandment, but I am evaluating the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

2 Cor. 8:9, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

2 Cor. 8:10, “And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;

2 Cor. 8:11, “but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.”

Php. 1:6 and 2 Cor. 8–9

- 1. We have two key words in Philipppians and 2 Cor. 8:6, in conjunction with one another focusing fellowship on financial contribution.**

Php. 1:6 and 2 Cor. 8–9

2. In the epistle to the Corinthians the example for giving is the Philippian church.

Php. 1:6 and 2 Cor. 8–9

3. These two chapters in 2 Corinthians have all of the major ideas which are in Php. 1:6 and in the conclusion in chapter 4.

Php. 1:6 and 2 Cor. 8–9

4. The term “good work” of Php. 1:6 is also used in 2 Cor. 9:8.

2 Cor. 9:8, “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

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Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” ~NKJV

Now God will carry His good work on toward completion until, and will actually have it all completed on, the day of Christ Jesus. This day is also called:

- **the day of Christ (Php. 1:10; 2:16),**
- **the day of our Lord Jesus (Christ) (1 Cor. 1:8; cf. 2 Cor. 1:14),**
- **the day of the Lord (1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; cf. 1 Cor. 5:5),**
- **the day (1 Thess. 5:4),**
- **that day (2 Thess. 1:10)**

~Hendricksen, *Philippians* (Amillennial)

Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,”

Php. 2:16, “holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”

1 Cor. 1:8, “who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Cor. 1:14, “(as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

***The Day of Christ* is different from the *Day of the Lord*.**

The *Day of the Lord* describes a time of judgment.

The *Day of Christ* is when Christ comes for His own at the Rapture, which is immediately followed by the Judgment Seat of Christ when we are rewarded.

Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Php. 4:17, “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”

Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers [fellow partners] with me of grace.” ~NKJV

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Php. 4:10, “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”

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defense; to make a legal
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defense; to make a legal
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**βεβαίωσις *bebaiōsis*
fem sing dat
process of establishing
or confirming something,
confirmation, validation**

Php. 1:8, “For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.” ~NKJV

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σπλάγχνον *splagchnon* neut plur dat entrails, heart, affection