

He Will Finish the Work

Intro to Philippians and Verses 1-11

June 11, 2023

Last week we wrapped up Ephesians and now head into Philippians! Here's where we are from now until August:

June 11th – He Will Finish the Work – Philippians 1:1-11
June 18th – God's Will Prevails – Philippians 1:12-18
June 25th – Stand Firm and Rejoice – Philippians 1:19-30
July 2nd – Imitate Christ – Philippians 2:1-11
July 9th – Don't Complain – Philippians 2:12-18
July 16th – Work Thru It – Philippians 2:19-30
July 23rd – Nothing to Boast About – Philippians 3:1-11
July 30th – Press On – Philippians 3:12-14
August 6th – Our Citizenship is in Heaven – Philippians 3:15-21
August 13th – Always Rejoice – Philippians 4:1-7
August 20th – Think on what is True – Philippians 4:8-9
August 27th – Be Content – Philippians 4:10-23

Paul wrote Philippians with the help of Timothy around 61 A.D.

Paul visited here on his second missionary journey (Acts 16) and Lydia, as well as the Philippian jailer were converted. A few years later the Church was established. In fact, do you know what, "a philosopher, a traveling saleslady, a former fortuneteller, and a prison guard have in common? They were all members at the Church at Philippi."¹

The city of Philippi was located in ancient Greece, on the border of Macedonia. It was a trade highway if you will, many passed through on the way to Rome.

In Philippians Paul writes to thank them for their financial gift as well as to remind them of God's goodness, grace and resources thru suffering.²

Acts 16:11-34 is the beginning of the Church at Philippi.

Paul in these verses reminds the people that they are 1) bondservants, and 2) to rejoice in tough times and to grow as they become more knowledgeable, discerning and are filled with the Lord's righteousness.

I have been saved – The work God does for us - salvation
I am being saved – The work God does in is – sanctification
The work God does thru us - service
I will be saved – The work God finished for us.

Sanctification – "The Holy Spirit's work of setting believers apart to be made holy or made like God."³

"At the moment of salvation, we are sanctified or set apart positionally; that is, we are saved from the ultimate penalty of sin. Then begins progressive sanctification, the process whereby we are saved from the practice and power of sin. And after this physical life is over, we will be sanctified finally; that is, we will be saved from the presence of sin."⁴

Positional Sanctification (Justification)

Grace thru faith we are saved, not of ourselves! Ephesians 2:8-9

Positional sanctification is a one-time act of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of unbelievers whom He (saved from sin). At the moment of salvation, believers understand and acknowledge their sinful state, their inability to save themselves through any works of their own, their need of a savior, their acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross as sin's payment, and their faith in Jesus' resurrection. At that moment, believers are brought out of darkness into the light. Our position before God has been changed forever. No longer dead in trespasses, we are made alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5). Our position changes in that we are made citizens of a whole new kingdom: "He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (Colossians 1:13).

Positional sanctification also changes our position as sinners deserving of God's wrath to the position of beloved children of the Father and perfect in His eyes. Our new position means we are part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27); God's special possession (1 Peter 2:9); new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17); dead to sin (Romans 6:2); and possessors of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). Because salvation is an act of the Spirit, the believer's new position cannot change, be lost, or be given back. We cannot "un-save" ourselves,

¹ Adrian Rogers

² www.gotquestion.org/church-in-Philippi.html

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

nor can we alter our position before God through any of our works or the lack thereof. We are kept in the position of beloved for the rest of our lives and throughout eternity. Positional sanctification is the work of God whereby He sets us apart and considers us holy in His eyes: “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). Positional sanctification is not dependent on our feelings or whims; it is a fact of salvation, even though our actions on earth do not always align with our position in heaven.⁵

Progressive Sanctification

Sanctification differs from justification in several ways. Justification is a one-time work of God, resulting in a declaration of “not guilty” before Him because of the work of Christ on the cross. Sanctification is a process, beginning with justification and continuing throughout life. Justification is the starting point of the line that represents one’s Christian life; sanctification is the line itself.

The second stage of sanctification requires a lifetime to complete. As we grow in grace, we are gradually – but steadily – changing to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). This occurs in a process of daily spiritual renewal (Colossians 3:10). The apostle Paul himself was being sanctified even as he ministered to others. Paul claimed that he had not reached perfection, but that he “pressed on” to attain everything Christ desired for him (Philippians 3:12).

Our role in sanctification is both passive and active. Passively, we are to trust God to sanctify us, presenting our bodies to God (Romans 6:13; 12:1) and yielding to the Holy Spirit. “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified” (1 Thessalonians 4:3), and God will have His way.

Actively, we are responsible to choose to do what is right. “Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable” (1 Thessalonians 4:4). This involves putting to death the “misdeeds of the body” (Romans 8:13), striving for holiness (Hebrews 12:14), fleeing immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18), cleansing ourselves from every defilement (2 Corinthians 7:1), and making every effort to supplement our faith (2 Peter 1:5-11) (Philippians 1:6).⁶

Final Sanctification (Glorification)

The short answer is that “glorification” is God’s final removal of sin from the life of the saints (i.e., everyone who is saved) in the eternal state (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17). At Christ’s coming, the glory of God (Romans 5:2)—His honor, praise, majesty, and holiness—will be realized in us; instead of being mortals burdened with sin nature, we will be changed into holy immortals with direct and unhindered access to God’s presence, and we will enjoy holy communion with Him throughout eternity. In considering glorification, we should focus on Christ, for He is every Christian’s “blessed hope”; also, we may consider final glorification as the culmination of sanctification.

Final glorification must await the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13; 1 Timothy 6:14). Until He returns, we are burdened with sin, and our spiritual vision is distorted because of the curse. “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12). Every day, we should be diligent by the Spirit to put to death what is “fleshly” (sinful) in us (Romans 8:13).

How and when will we be finally glorified? At the last trumpet, when Jesus comes, the saints will undergo a fundamental, instant transformation (“we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” – 1 Corinthians 15:51); then the “perishable” will put on the “imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:53). Yet 2 Corinthians 3:18 clearly indicates that, in a mysterious sense, “we all,” in the present, “with unveiled face” are “beholding the glory of the Lord” and are being transformed into His image “from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18). Lest anyone imagine that this beholding and transformation (as part of sanctification) is the work of especially saintly people, the Scripture adds the following bit of information: “For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” In other words, it is a blessing bestowed on every believer. This does not refer to our final glorification but to an aspect of sanctification by which the Spirit is transfiguring us right now. To Him be the praise for His work in sanctifying us in the Spirit and in truth (Jude 24-25; John 17:17; 4:23).

According to Philippians 3:20–21, our citizenship is in heaven, and when our Savior returns He will transform our lowly bodies “to be like His glorious body.” Although it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, we know that, when He returns in great glory, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). We will be perfectly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus and be like Him in that our humanity will be free from sin and its consequences. Our blessed hope should spur us on to holiness, the Spirit enabling us. “Everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure” (1 John 3:3).⁷

Prayer Focus:

- **I have been justified?**
- **Am I seeing God sanctify me? Am I walking with Him?**
- **Am I early anticipating glorification?**

⁵ <https://www.gotquestions.org/positional-sanctification.html>

⁶ <https://www.gotquestions.org/progressive-sanctification.html>

⁷ <https://www.gotquestions.org/glorification.html>