

Sermon Title: He Will Finish What He Started

Sermon Text: Philippians 1:6

Introduction

There was a young boy standing on the side of the road when a man stopped and asked him did he know how to get to town? The boy responded and said no sir I do not.

Next, the man asked him did he know how to get to route twenty. The boy said no sir I do not. Next, the man asked him did he know where the road would lead him? The boy said no sir I do not.

Finally, the man asked him do you know the name of this road. The boy said no sir I do not. Frustrated, the man asked him do you know anything?

The boy said, I know I am not lost! I must admit, there is so much that I do not know but I do know I have been born again. I love that old hymn we sing:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

Oh what a foretaste of glory divine

Heir of salvation purchase of God

Born of his spirit washed in his blood.

This is my story, This is my song

Praising my savior all the day long

This is my story, This is my song

Praising my savior all the day long

I have the blessed assurance this morning. I know I have been saved and hear me when I tell you this morning you can too. In other words, you do not have to be depressed. You do not have to be discouraged. You do not

have to be defeated, you can know you have been born again and we discover that here in our text.

Background

During this time, the apostle Paul was in prison, however that would not stop him from writing unto the church of Philippi. The reason Paul would write them was to thank them for their love and support and to let them know that despite his imprisonment they should rejoice because the Lord was still at work, but how did Paul know the Lord was at work?

Because he knew the Lord would not begin a work he would not finish. Therefore he rejoiced because he knew what the Lord had begun in their lives would be completed because Christ is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the author and finisher of our faith.

Therefore, he was convinced that the lord would complete his good work among until the day of Jesus Christ. Why? Because the lord is an finisher and the apostle paul wants them too know, although they are saved, the lord was not finished with them yet.

You may be here this morning and you have been born again, but hear me when I tell you the lord is not done with you yet. I remember, when I was an young pastor, there was an song the young people always wanted to sing during children church and you may have sung it too:

He' still working on me

To make me what I ought to be

It took him just a week to make the moon and stars

The sun and the earth and jupiter and mars

How loving and patient he must be

Cause he's still working on me!

I am so thankful, the lord is not done with me yet. I am not an finished product and praise his holy name I know he will finished what he started in my life and here is the good new, he will finish what he started in your life also. How do I know? Because paul said...

(V.6) being "confident" of this very thing, that he which hath begun an good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

- 1. To Be Certain*
- 2. To Be Convinced*
- 3. To Be Confident*

The word confident means "to be persuaded of" and have confidence in and nothing will encourage a believer more than knowing that despite the uncertainty and difficulty they experience they can have the assurance that the lord will finish what he has started

And this morning I want to continue discussing the things we have in common and encourage you that you can have assurance of salvation. You can know you have been born again!!! Last week we discovered we have an common devotion.

1. We Have An Common Deliverance: 6

A. The Source Of Salvation: 6a

(V.6a) "He" Which Hath "Begun" An Good Work In You

Paul makes it perfectly clear, the unbeliever cannot save themselves and yet there are many who attempt too earn their way too heaven through good works and good deed but notice who the scripture says initiated salvation.

The Lord! He is the one who began the good work in you and He is the one who will complete it! There are many whom are trying any other way but the right way and hear me when I tell you there is only one way too heaven.

The scripture says in Acts 4:12: neither is there salvation in any other for theres none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be save.

When the lord was preparing to leave his disciples he said unto them let not your heart be troubled ye believe in god believe also in me. In my father house are many mansion if it were not so I would have told you.

I go to prepare an place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also and whither I go you now and the way you know.

Thomas said unto him: Lord I know not where thou goest and how can we know the way and Jesus said unto him I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes unto the father but by me.

There are so many who are trying and testing other ways when the scripture makes it clear there is only one way to heaven and that's through Christ. Why?

Because salvation is the work of God

Jonah said: Salvation is of the Lord (2:9)

He is the one who began the good work in you but what does the began mean? It means to begin in It is used only twice in the New Testament, both times in reference to salvation.

Paul rebuked certain believers in the Galatian churches who believed that they could finish in their own power what God had divinely begun in their lives solely by the power of His Holy Spirit:

“Are you so foolish?” he asked rhetorically. “Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Gal. 3:3). In our text, the apostle, in effect, responds to that same question assuring the church that their salvation is solely an gracious work of God.

God requires faith for salvation but faith is not a meritorious work. Salvation is by the power of God in response to faith which means salvation is divinely initiated and divinely accomplished thru God.

Although Lydia, the first convert in what would become the church at Philippi, believed the gospel of Christ, Luke made it clear that “the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

Later, Paul emphasized that “to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for his sake,” and “it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil. 1:29; 2:13).

Listen To Me, Salvation Is The Work Of The Lord!

The way most people refer to their salvation experience leads one to assume that they had more to do with their salvation than God did. I have heard people say, “The day I found the Lord...I came to Christ...I decided to follow Jesus...I gave Him my life.”

But the truth of the matter is we didn’t find Him, because He wasn’t lost. He found us, because we were lost. We came to Him only because He came to us. We gave our lives to Him only because He gave His life for us.

We did not just decide, one day, that we were going to get saved. There was

a day when God came to us and called us and when we responded to the call, we were saved but, it had nothing to do with us. It was God who initiated the moment of our salvation.

We were dead, defiled, depraved and destitute. Therefore, we could not go looking for god. In fact, the scripture says in ephesians 2:2: we were going in the opposite direction.

For we were walking according to the course of this world according to the prince of the power of the air. In other words we were the children of wrath and unless the father opened our eyes unto eternal life we were destined for the wrath which was to come.

Aren't you thankful there was an day when you were lost and headed to hell but the lord passed by and called you and convicted you and changed you.

Aren't you thankful the holy spirit drew you unto the father thru the work of the son? Because hear me when I tell you that unless the father opened your eyes unto the gospel, you would have continued down the broad road which lead to destruction.

You would have been without heaven and without hope, because you were without him, but thanks be unto god, the lord was moved with compassion, and decided before the foundation of the world, he would be the lamb, which would be slain so that he could take away the sins of the world.

There once was a man who worked in an slaughter house. They would bring cattle in to slaughter and he said he never had problems with any animal that came in to be slaughtered but one day the boss called them in and said today is going to be different.

I have a load of lambs that are coming in and we are going too slaughter them. The man thought this would be no problem. I have worked at the

slaughter house for years, I can handle this, this will be easy. They brought the truck in and opened the doors and he said I knew right away something was different.

He said when they would unload cattle it was like they could smell death and sense fear and usually they would have to force them up the ramp, but when they opened up the doors and placed an ramp up for the lambs, he said the first lamb came off the truck, and it never looked too the right and it never looked to the left.

Instead it came right up to the top of the ramp, where I was, with knife in hand, and he said when I reached out to cut it, because usually animals would fight him, but instead the lamb placed his head right under my hand and he took out the knife and swiftly he cut the throat of that lamb, and he said the strangest thing happened.

The lamb buckled but then he looked up at me and laid his head back

under my hand and by that time the blood of the lamb was on my hand, and he said that lamb started licking the blood on my hand and he said for some reason I thought as Isaiah said, he was led as an lamb to the slaughter but he opened not his mouth.

Romans 5:8: but god demonstrated his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10: Herein is love not that we loved God but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hear me when I tell you this morning, the lord did not have to die, the lord chose to die for sinners like you and I, behold the lamb of god who came to take away the sins of the world and because he has taken away

the sins of the world, we can rejoice because we've been saved by the precious blood of christ.

He Is The Source Of Our Salvation

B. The Force Of Our Salvation: 6b

(V.6b) He That Hath Began... Will Perform It

The phrase "perform it" means to be fully completed. In other words, paul was certain the lord would finish and fully complete his work of salvation within the believer.

I believe we serve an god will will never leave anything un-done nor unfinished, and I believe that because when he was hanging upon the cross he cried out, it is finished.

Jesus did not come to do things half way!

Jesus came to do things all the way!

In other words, God has an agenda and He will stick to His agenda. He will not be blown off course, because God never does anything halfway. He finishes what He starts and notice there are two interesting term the apostle paul uses in the verse, and those terms are begun, and perform.

There interesting terms because speaks of the beginning and ending of an sacrifice and are used in connection to the sacrifices that were made by the greeks.

During an sacrifice, the torch was lit, from fire on the altar and then dipped into a bowl of water to cleanse it with it sacred flame. The people would sprinkle themselves and the sacrifice with the purified water.

Next, there was a sacred silence where the worshipper would worship and make his prayers known unto God. A basket of barley would then be

brought and some grains of the barley scattered on the sacrifice and on the ground around it. These actions were the beginning of the sacrifice.

The term for this was the verb Paul used for "begun."

The word for completing the whole ritual of sacrifice was the word perform which Paul used here in our text which means the believers life is an process of being an sacrifice unto God, and the work that the Lord is doing in our lives will cease once the process has been made complete but the work he is doing will not be made complete until we stand before him as his beloved.

Remember, it was the apostle Paul who said, For I am now ready to be offered up and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (1 Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul's life was an sacrifice unto god from start to finish!

Hear me when I tell you the lord has an plan, an purpose, and an program for you life. The scripture says the steps of an righteous man are ordered by the lord.

I once heard someone say the steps and the stops of the righteous man are ordered by the lord, but no matter what we can rejoice because we know what the lord has started in our life he will finish it.

There once was an sculptor whose statue of an horse was facinated by everyone who came to see it. One day he was asked, how did you take such an ugly piece of stone and make such an beautiful horse?

The sculptor said I simply chipped away everything that did not look like an horse and hear me that is what the lord is doing in your life right now. Through the loss of an job, the death of a loved one, the abandonment of

a spouse, the betrayal of a friend, throughout it all, the lord is at work in your life chipping away anything and everything that does not resemble a christian.

He Is The Source Of Our Salvation

He Is The Force Of Our Salvation

C. The Course Of Our Salvation: 6c

(v.6c) He will perform until the of Jesus Christ.

In other words my redeemed life started with the lord and it will end with the lord and having said that, we should be encouraged, because that means from the moment the lord has been walking with us every step of the way

And no matter the trials and tribulation, no matter the pain and peril,

no matter the ups and downs, the lord has been with us every step of the way. I know this, because the scripture makes it clear when the lord ascended into the heavens to take his rightful place on the throne he would not leave us comfortless.

Instead, he would leave us another comforter the holy spirit, which would be our helper along the way (Maze Jackson Do you know the holy ghost).

The eschatological expression the day of Christ Jesus does not refer to what the Old and New Testaments prophesy as the final Day of the Lord, the time of God's judgment on the sinful world.

Instead the day of Jesus Christ refers to the time when believers will be glorified, when their salvation will be completed and made perfect. It is the same as "the day of Christ" that Paul mentions several times later in Philippians, the day for which Christians should be prepared by living sincerely and blamelessly and by holding fast the word of life.

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, the apostle called it “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:8), and in his second letter to them he called it “the day of our Lord Jesus” (2 Cor. 1:14).

In each instance, the personal names Jesus or Christ are given (rather than Lord), and in each instance the reference is to the time when the believer will share the lord perfect righteousness.

1 John 3:1: Behold what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of god: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:2: Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

The day of Christ Jesus is the time glorification when the glorious manifestation of the children of God will finally come. When God saves, He saves completely and eternally.

In promissory covenant terms, to be justified is to be sanctified and glorified. There is no such thing as experiencing one of those aspects of salvation without the other two.

Each is a necessary part of the whole course of salvation. For God to begin salvation in a person's life is an irrevocable guarantee of His completing it.

As William Hendriksen has observed God is not like men. Men conduct experiments, but God carries out a plan. God never does anything by halves which means we have an promise from God, a promise which he will keep. What is that promise according to scripture, that all everything he starts he finishes.

1 Peter 1:3-5: Blessed be the god and father of our lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto an lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorrupt and undefiled and fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of god through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

There are so many who have our doctrine so wrong. The Free Will Baptist do believe in eternal security, however it is conditional, which means we believer you are eternal secure as along as you keep your faith and trust in christ Jesus because notice what the scripture says, we are kept by the power of god **THROUGH FAITH!**

I wake up every morning with the assurance of salvation. I do not live with uncertainty, because I have placed my faith and trust in christ and because I have placed my faith and trust christ I know he will finish what

he has started in my life because he has made it clear he will not leave anything undone nor unfinished. F.B. meyer once wrote:

We go into the artist's studio and find there unfinished pictures covering large canvases, and suggesting great designs, but which have been left, either because the genius was not competent to complete the work, or because paralysis laid the hand low in death; but as we go into God's great workshop we find nothing that bears the mark of haste or insufficiency of power to finish, and we are sure that the work which His grace has begun, the arm of his strength will complete. Your salvation is secure in christ, why?

Salvation Is The Work Of God

Salvation Is The Work Of Grace

Salvation Is The Work Of Glory

Jude 1:24: Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

- *The Power Of God:* He is able to keep you
- *The Purpose Of God:* Present you before his
- *The Promise Of God:* without fault...

I'm confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform until the day of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Edwin Rushworth had been a skeptic all his life. He resolved to read for an hour a day the book that he had so long derided. "Wife," he said, as he looked up from his first perusal, "if this book is right, we are all wrong!"

He continued his readings for another week. "Wife," he exclaimed at the end of that time, "if this book is right, we are lost!" He went on reading more earnestly than ever. "Wife!" he said earnestly a few nights later, "if this book is right, we can all be saved!" Someone shout amen!

(My Bout With Doubt)