



SERIES: Philippians (May / June)

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Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 1:6 / Romans 8:29-30

TITLE: A Work In Progress

Do you ever feel like you're a work in progress? I sure do. I mean, how come I have been a Christian for so long, yet I can lose my cool over the simplest of things? How come I treat my wife like a doormat, when all she did was ask for some help? I mean, what's the story? I thought Salvation saved our souls and changed our lives.

Thank God that statement is true, and the changed life is a daily process. At least that's what history reveals, and Paul describes in Philippians 1:6 (NLT):

[And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.](#)

In 1988, Steve Green wrote a song based on this passage. It was a beautiful song and inspired a new generation to know and claim this passage. But we must remember what Paul just said in the previous verses. Paul said in verses 4-5 that Paul was full of joy while praying for this church. They were partners in the Gospel. So verse six has insight into both the completion of the partnership of the Gospel and that good work of perfecting salvation. We often call this sanctification.

You see, God's salvation is in three parts. It's positional - once saved, always saved. It's functional - daily, we are being transformed and saved from our own flesh. And final - salvation when Christ returns, and we experience our glorified bodies, and our desires are finally perfected.

It is just like Paul wrote in Romans 8:29-30 (ESV): [“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”](#) Paul says, that He chose us to be conformed or molded into the image of Christ. He called us so that we would be justified or saved, and, in time, finally glorified or perfected.

That's the positional, functional, and final salvation. Each one is important and necessary for our daily living. Because without the positional, we are without hope. Without the functional, we struggle to find purpose and guidance. Without the final, the battle never ends.

So here's my encouragement for you today: The God who begins is the God who completes. Therefore, come to him with your struggles. I struggle daily. Daily, I battle the flesh and need

God's help. So talk to God about your struggles. He's saved you. He won't let you fail. He also won't let you settle. So tell God your struggle. Ask Him for help to move through it. And while you're at it, share it with us. We're just a bunch of people who are a work in progress. And when we can encourage each other, the better off we'll be. So together with God's help, let's lean into His work. When we do, we will win the day.