

God

Always

Finishes

**What He
*Starts***



God Finishes What He Starts

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever started something you could not finish? I guess we all have. We may have had great aspirations and jumped into something before we were ready, maybe it was a business adventure, maybe you started college career, but never could finish. Sadly, some marriages are this way. I have observed over the years this happen to many pastors, deacons, Sunday school teachers; they start out with a burning desire to do something for God, but could not finish what they started. Many of us start things we just can't finish. Often I drive 25W to LaFollette Tennessee. I passed by house that was nearly built and I remember in my younger years I drove a concrete truck and I poured the footer for a house, but now it is rotting away. I often wonder why they did not finish it.

I read the story of two boys Billy and Jimmy. They were talking and Billy said to Jimmy, "My daddy has a list of men that he can whip, and your dad's name is on that list." Jimmy went home and told his daddy, "Daddy, did you know that Billy's dad has a list of men that he can whip and your name is

number one on that list?" Jimmy's daddy said, "Is that so?" Jimmy said, "That's what I heard." Jimmy's daddy went over to Billy's daddy and knocked on the door. Jimmy's daddy said, "My son Jimmy said that your bon Billy said that you have a list of men you can whip, and my name is number one on that list. Is that right?" Billy's daddy said, "Yes, that's right." Timmy's daddy said, "Well, I don't believe you can do it. What are you going to do about that?" Billy's daddy said, "Well, I'll just take your name off the list." God will never have to take your name off the list.

God has never started something He could not finish. We serve a mighty God! That's why Paul could say; **being confident of this very thing that which hath begun a good work in you will perform until the day of Jesus Christ.** Now this is one of the most wonderful promise is in the Bible. God finishes what he starts. This is one lesson many of God's children had to learn. For instance, Sarah had a little trouble believing that God could finish what he started. We read in **Genesis 18:1** **And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day.** He told Abraham, that Sarah was going to have a son. Sarah was ease dropping and heard what God said, and she laughed in disbelief. **V 12-14.**
¹²Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying,

After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? ¹³ And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? ¹⁴ Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Also, you remember **Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every thing.** The apostle Paul had to learn this confidence. When Paul said, **being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.** Paul remembered when God had told him in **Acts 23:11d so must thou bear witness also at Rome.** But this promise that God made to Paul was threatened in **Acts 27** because there was a terrible storm came upon the ship where Paul was a prisoner and that storm lasted for 14 days all hope was gone that they would survive. But Paul knew that God had told him he had to go to Rome because God said it.

There's not a storm or Satan they can stop what God has started! Nothing can encourage a Christian so much as the knowledge that despite life's uncertainties and difficulties, and no matter how many defeat we suffer on the way God will get us to the finish line. This verse became J Vernon McGee's life verse when he was a young preacher.

His dad died at an early age working with a cotton gin. Vernon was 14 years old. They were a poor family; he had to get a permit to go to work to help support the family. He finally finished school. God called him to preach. He went to college with the help of others. Then 1928 -29 during the depression he felt lead to go on to seminary. There were no jobs and no money, no way seemly earthly possible. When two widows who went to church with him called him to come see them they were sisters living together. They gave two envelopes to J Vernon; he said he could not wait to get out of sight enough to look inside. There was a check for \$250.00 in each one. He said do know what \$500 was during the depression. He felt like a millionaire! Then at a church Sunday school banquet they gave him \$100.00. He went to seminary. And **Phil 1:6** became his life verse.

This is a good verse, when Mountain Ash was only a small building. I mean a poor church with a coal stove out in the floor no bathrooms or water and we built this new building. Many feared that it would not be paid off. But I got a promise from God. From this verse that **He which begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.** I knew God would finish what He started. Ladies and gentlemen, He surely has.

I. The Origin of Our Salvation. V6

Being confident of this very thing that he which begun a good work in you. One thing that is abundantly clear here is that our salvation's origin is God. It is completely a work of God. For that reason, its completion is as certain as if it were already accomplished. Salvation is all important and before the foundation of this world was laid. It was already settled in heaven. When Jesus came to this earth and suffered and died on the cross. We remember, He cried out it is finished or it is completed. Our Savior had finished what He started.

A. It is God's Work. V6

He which hath begun. Now folks, here is where the problem arises. Some people have the idea that they had something to do with their getting saved. No, you did not. It is totally a work of God. We read in **Ephesians 2:8–9. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

I have heard people say, I found God or heard the gospel, and I gave my heart to Him or I repented of my sins. I decided to follow Jesus. I hear a lot of I's. The truth is in **Romans 3:11b. There is none that seeketh after God.** When we get

to heaven, we will find out how little we had to do with our salvation. We were all the same sinners with no desire to be saved. In fact, we ran from God and many still do. I'm just thankful for the grace of God. He must outrun us to show us that we need Him. We read in **1 Corinthians 2:14. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.** No, God must come looking for us. I know we might have said in the past I found God. But ladies and gentlemen, God wasn't lost, it was you and me. This is illustrated in **Luke 15:1–7.** We read about a Shepherd who went out back to the one lost sheep and hunted until he found it and placed it on his shoulders and brought it home with rejoicing. You see, it is a work of God.

B. It is a Good Work. V6

He which hath begun a good work in you.

God began this work and it is called a good work. May I say that everybody who is saved understands this and we are happy to be saved; the greatest thing that ever happened in my life. Now I have had some good things happen in my life, my wonderful wife that has been a blessing to my life for all of these years, my three children presented joy in my heart and my grandchildren, and this church is been such a joy to me be the pastor of. But nothing has been greater than my salvation! Now you wonder why

people don't want to be saved. Why do they stay away from church? The devil has lied to them about salvation. The devil says if you joined the church it is all over you will never be happy again. You lose all the joy of your life. You will have to wear black and wear a long face all the time like the old mule. Some are like that. The devil is a liar.

I heard the story of two farmers in Kentucky that wanted to take a little trip on a train. They brought tickets and got on the train. When they got in there the fruit vendor came around selling fruit. He came through the train selling bananas. The farmers bought a banana each. One of them took his banana and peeled it down a little bit and took a big bite and began to chew on it. He swallowed a little and took a big bite and began to chew on it. He swallowed a little bit of it and about that time the train shot into a tunnel. He turned to his pal and said, "Say, Jim. Have you eaten your banana yet?" "No, not yet", answered his friend. "Well, don't eat it; it will make you blind as a bat. It will make you blind as a bat!" There are a lot of people in the world who have just as little understanding of spiritual things as that dear old farmer.

You see the truth is, I never found life until Jesus Christ came into my heart. We read in **John 10:10 b, I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** It was

Jesus who said in **John 15:11. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.** You see salvation is like going to a feast not a funeral. It was Paul, who said rejoice.

II. The Onwardness of Our Salvation. V6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it. I mean what God started in you he will keep it going. Now folks, your salvation is only the beginning. Here is another problem for some people they think once you are saved it is finished. No, the Bible says it's only the beginning. It's like a baby being born. How many parents think when a baby is born their job is complete? No! It's only begun. Or like joining the Army it's only the beginning or like getting accepted to a University this does not mean, you've got a degree, no, it's the beginning towards one. We read in **Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.** Salvation is not just an insurance policy to keep you out of hell. It is the beginning of a great life to be lived for God. It's this that we see the onwardness of our salvation.

A. A Continual Developing. V6

We should continually develop our spiritual

life and grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. This good work that God began in you will go on as long as you live. I have been serving the Lord now, for 47 years and I have not arrived I am not perfect and neither are you. Although I have seen a few that thought they had become perfect.

I heard the story of a preacher one night in a church service who asked if they knew anyone that was perfect. A lady held up her hand and the preacher asked her old do you know someone perfect? She said I don't know them personally but I hear a lot about my husband's first wife. Well, the truth is, she wasn't perfect either. You see salvation is progressive. This is what we call sanctification we should be trying to be more like Jesus every day.

We read **in Romans 8:29–30 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

³⁰ **Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.** You see, God's purpose in our salvation is not to get us to heaven but it's to get us to where we are like Jesus Christ and every day he's working on us until we get to that place. Remember **Ephesians 2:8-9. But don't forget verse 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good**

works. We are saved to serve. We don't do Bible study just to become a walking encyclopedia of the Bible. We do it to learn how we can serve the Lord greater and do a better job as we develop.

B. A Continual Discipline. V 6

Now I want you to know God finishes what He starts in our life. He does not give up easy on a stubborn child. Once you become His son or daughter He becomes your father. He accepts the responsibility like you and I did for our own children. You make no mistake about it God will not fail as a father. Once you belong to him God will do good work in your life and He will finish what He starts. You say Brother Billy I know a Christian who lives in sin. Let me make two things clear. One, you don't know that person is a Christian just because they made a profession was baptized and joined a church does not make them a child of God. In fact, we read in **Matthew 7:21. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** The second thing is a saved person can sin. But if they are God's He will correct them. We read in **Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son.** In **Hebrews 12:8, But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are**

ye bastards, and not sons. If there is no discipline in your life it means you are not saved. In **Hebrews 12:11, Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous.** Sometimes it's not easy what He does in our life, but it's always for good. We read in **Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.**

III. The Outcome of Our Salvation. V6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. What is the outcome of this marvelous salvation provided us in Jesus Christ? Let me say two quick things in closing about the outcome.

A. The Saints Completion. V6

You can be confident of this that he that began this will finish it. Salvation in the New Testament is in three tenses. It is viewed as the past it is salvation from the penalty of sin or our justification. In **Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.** We also read in **Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.** Salvation it's viewed in the present tense you are being saved from the power of

sin. This is what we call sanctification. Salvation is also viewed in the future tense what we will be saved from the presence of sin. One day we call that glorification. In **Romans 13:11b. For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.** What is that mean? Listen my dearly beloved your body is not yet redeemed. We are the son of Adam and polluted. But one day this body will be changed. **Romans 8:23b the redemption of the body.**

B. The Saviors Coming. V6

Paul said **he is confident that the good work that God began He would finish it until the day of Jesus Christ or His coming.** I believe this day is closer today than ever before. This is clearly seen in the Scripture in **Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20–21. For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.** Yes, one of these days our salvation will be complete. We're living in the near coming of our Lord. Until the day we see Jesus return God is working on us and shaping our lives. When He comes we should be changed and then our salvation will be complete. We have been justified.

We are now sanctified and one day, so we we'll be glorified. We will have a brand-new body praise the Lord. The last step will be made and one day we will be perfect. Just like our Lord Jesus.

I do not know where you are right now. You may be reading this booklet and you are out of church and away from God. I want you to know God always finishes what He starts. If you are His, you are going to find out. God does not give up on you. You are headed for some trouble of your own making. What I would recommend you do, is ask God to forgive you and get back to doing right before trouble comes; if it has already happened. I mean you are reading this and everything in your life is messed up. Then God is at work in your life. You need to ask God to forgive you and get back where you belong.

A simple prayer, Lord, I realize I am not where I once was, I have sinned, I confess my sin please forgive me and restore the joy of my salvation to me. In Jesus name Amen!

If you prayed this prayer, believe you are forgiven. Start back doing His work. Let us know at Mountain Ash Baptist Church @ 606-786-4878.

"Come To The Mountain"



Mountain Ash TM

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