

PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN GOD
Phil. 1:6

Intro: On this Lord's Day I want to spend our time together in the book of Philippians -- this morning, in one verse; tonight, a brief look at the whole book from the standpoint of what the Lord was doing with Paul during the time that he was a prisoner of Rome in Rome.

The verse^{for} this morning is verse 6 of chapter 1. In it we have one of the clearest statements about salvation that it is possible to find in the Word of God. Here is a statement of absolute assurance as to the final outcome of salvation. Nothing could be clearer in Paul's writings than his confidence that, having been saved, he was saved forever.

But, contrary to what many people would have us believe, this did NOT cause him to be careless and indifferent about his life. It was one of the greatest encouragements he had for prayer, and it caused him to press on (3:14) knowing that he would reach the goal.

Our verse for this morning also indicates that, while he was sure of the ultimate outcome, he did not believe that the Lord's work in him had yet been completed. (We see this also in chapter 3, vv. 12-14.)

It is a tremendous verse, one which every child of God should be able to repeat to express the certainty that he has in his own heart regarding his salvation.

And we look at the verse this morning to prepare us for the Lord's Supper -- because there, too, we see the basis for our assurance.

But let us make sure, first of all, that we understand . . .

I. THE MEANING OF THE VERSE.

"Being confident" -- means two things:

- 1) That he is convinced, assured.
- 2) That he is believing, trusting God to do what He has set out to do, and what only he can do.

Paul uses this same verb in Rom. 8:35; 2 Tim. 1:12.

"Of this very thing" -- very emphatic, pointing the reader to what immediately follows.

"That he which hath begun a good work -- speaking, of course, of God. "Work" is here viewed as the sum-total of all that God is doing. It is "good" because all is serving the same

divine purpose.

"In you" -- a plural, indicating the place where the work is being done.

"Will perform it" -- not simply do it, but complete it, perfect it, finish it, bring it to an end.

"Until the day of Jesus Christ" -- when the Lord returns, the time when the work will be finished.

Now let us get the message of the verse. There are at least 7 significant things that Paul has given us in the 15 words that are found in the Greek text -- and all are easy to see in our English text!

II. THE MESSAGE OF THE VERSE.

Salvation is:

A. First, a divine work.

If you are to understand salvation, and if you/^{are}to be assured of your salvation, this is where you must start.

Paul could be confident because it is a work of God.

B. Second, it is a gracious work.

This is the only way you can bring these two words together: " . . . he . . . you . . ." It is like "God" and "the world" in John 3:16.

C. Third, it is "a good work."

This not only means that God is doing that which is good in His sight, but that which is all working together to accomplish the work of salvation. Phil. 1:6 is very similar to Rom. 8:28, 29.

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D. Fourth, it is an inward work.

We are always looking on the outside, at the circumstance^s which we can see, but God is always concerned about what is taking places inside of us. He always works from the inside out! That is hwere the changes must take place.

E. Fifth, it is a personal work. The "you" is plural. God may work in different ways. Our experiences are all different because our personal needs differ. But the goal is the same for each one, and the work has to be

in every heart -- in your heart, and in mine! We can say this about each other just as Paul said it about the Philippians.

F. Sixth, it is a continuing work.

As far as our experience is concerned, he began it when we were saved. And the work is going on at this very moment. God is always at work.

See again Phil. 3:12-14.

G. Seventh, it is a guaranteed work.

He "will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." That is, He will move that work right ahead to its final completion. He will finish it. He will accomplish what He set out to do in the very beginning.

Concl: But what is the basis of this work? It is that which is given to us in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for our sins. He has satisfied God concerning our offenses and has made full provision for our forgiveness. There can be no salvation without the acknowledgment of this. All of our hopes are centered in God and in Christ.

This is why the Lord said, "This do, in remembrance of me." We are so apt to forget, so prone to take the glory to ourselves, so inclined to minimize what it took to save us, and what it takes to make us what God wants us to be.

Let us be careful:

- 1) To give all of the glory to God.
- 2) To make sure that we do not take any for ourselves.

Do you know Him as your Savior?