
It's Already Done - Handout

Scripture: Philippians 1:6 – being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

When Paul wrote this letter to the church at Philippi, he was probably a prisoner in Rome. This letter gave Paul the opportunity to express his love and appreciation for the Christians at Philippi, to share with them his external situation and his internal contentment in Christ. And it is in this sixth verse that Paul said something that was encouraging and insightful not only for the Philippians but also for every child of God when he declared, "*Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*"

If we can pause right here for a moment. When Paul says, "that HE WHO (that's God), has begun a good work... God didn't just start working in you, on you, and through you last week, or last month, or last year... The Word of God came unto Jeremiah and told him, "Before, I formed thee in the belly I knew thee". This 'Good Work' started a long time ago! God's good work is amazing!

God's one Good Work **in us** ... is threefold blessing **for us!**

1. What God's good work does **for us** – is Salvation
2. What God's good work does **in us** – is Sanctification
3. What God's good work does **through us** – is Service

The Initiator

As the initiator it affirms the truth that it is God who is doing a good work through us. When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he put it like this: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).

A simple way of stating this is that we should always remember that we are saved by God's grace and not by our goodness.

- God is the initiator of our beginning and our end – He created a plan
- God is the initiator salvation and our life everlasting – He has endorsed the plan
- God is the initiator of the Grace that sustains us through our faith – He want us to follow the plan

The Doer

God uses other people to help give shape to our spiritual formation. I am going to say that again. What God is working out in our lives, He is doing so in relationship to the church. God's good work is not done in a vacuum; it is accomplished in the fellowship of believers. We are told in the book of *Hebrews 10:24–25* - ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,* ²⁵ *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.*

The Actor

- God has already acted on the things that you had to go through – Thank Him because it's already done!
- God is already acting on the things that you are going through – Trust Him because it's already done!
- God is going to act on the things that you will go through – Praise Him in advance! because it's already done!

Suffering and struggle and sacrifice are parts of the Christian pilgrimage. If you recall that Jesus said, *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). Victory – God has already **“acted”** on these things.....Its already done!

What God starts He finishes. We are victorious because God is the **initiator**, the **doer**, and the **actor** in the affairs of our lives. We can live with the confidence that God has a plan and purpose that He is working out in our lives for our good and for His glory!

A Poem by Avis B. Christenson on Victory

I prayed for help, I prayed for strength I prayed for victory: I prayed for patience and for love, For true humility But as I pray, my dying Christ By faith I seemed to see, And as I gazed my glad heart cried, “All things are mine, thro’ Thee!”	If He doth dwell within my heart, Why need I strength implore? The giver of all grace is mine, And shall I ask for more? And need I pray for victory, When He who conquered death Dwells in my very inmost soul, Nearer indeed than breath?	Oh, help me, Lord, to realize That Thou are all in all: That I am more than a conqueror In great things and in small No need to have I but Thou hast met Upon the cruel tree. Oh precious, dying, risen Lord, Thou are my victory!
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