

“...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

Scripture Block: Pp 1:1-11

Theme: GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

Life verse: Pp 1:9-11

Today’s passage: Pp 1:6

Notes

Interpretation

Reading verse 6 brings to mind a number of questions: 1) What is the good work? 2) What was begun and what is being completed? 3) Who is the one completing the work? 4) What’s the significance for us. We need to begin by taking a closer look at the Greek grammar associated with this verse:

“...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.”

1. The word translated “being confident” means to be convinced or persuaded of something. Furthermore, the fact that it is a perfect tense verb refers to an action that is completed with ongoing results. Paul is not only convinced, but it is a settled matter in his mind.

2. Next, we have another verb translated “began”. It means “to begin something”, and is in the aorist tense which refers to a point of time. It is followed by another verb translated, “carry on to completion”. This verb means to finish something, and carries the idea of to bring to perfection. It is in the future tense; and therefore, refers to a yet future time in the lives of Paul’s audience.

So why all the grammar stuff? This verse points to a number of extremely important Biblical principles, and so we need to have as full an understanding as possible. Putting these ideas together, we have something like this:

“...it is a settled matter in my thinking, that he (God) who began a good work in you (at the point of your salvation) is continually at work to bring it to a yet future fruition (when you are conformed to the image of Christ) upon the day of Christ Jesus.”

Application

Paul is not emphasizing the Philippians’ past or future; rather, he is reminding them that God is continually at work in their lives. By extension, God has a plan for each of us, and between the “bookends” of our salvation and eternity, He has our development in mind. This brings us to something called “experiential sanctification”, which we will study for the next several days.