

## Philippians 1:3–6

“Rejoicing over Christ's Work Begun and Completed”

***What makes the apostle rejoice so much over the Philippians? Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these four verses, the apostle expresses abounding joy over the Philippians' receipt of the gospel, growing in the gospel, and participation in his own ministry of the gospel—most of all because he is laser-focused upon the Day of Christ, and these are all indicators of a begun-work that will be gloriously completed in that day!***

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Philippians chapter one verses three through six, these are God's words. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always and every prayer of mine making requests for you all with joy. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. Being confident of this very thing.

That he who has begun a good work in you all. Will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. With your children one of the, Motivations that God gives you in his word for following him and knowing him trusting him learning his word living according to his word is that children who are wise who do not say, ah their heart that there is no God but make that beginning and wisdom which is to fear the Lord and then continue walking with him according to his word that they gladdened their mother and their father and they bring honor.

To their mother and their father and so in the book of proverbs which especially aims at children along with ecclesiastes but especially in the book of Proverbs which aims at children often gladdening or bringing honor to your parents as one of the things that God says you should desire and should be a motivator for you as you live your life.

Well there's a similar motivation with your pastor with your elders Hebrews 13 verse 17 talks about those who watch your soul as those who must give account and it says that you should let them do that with joy and not with grief that there is a love for those whom the Lord has given to shepherd to us to teach us and lead us in following his word that ought to desire that they would be glad and they would.

Get honor as those through them the Lord has done so much work in our lives well for the Apostle Paul knows that this is something that the Philippians desire that he would be glad and that he would receive honor and so he comes and he tells them that and yet he redirects the gladness and the owner especially to Christ.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always and every prayer of mine making requests for you all with joy. Now it's quite possible that Paul had a list of all the churches that he had planted and spent time as as their pastor not just as an apostle but ministering and shepherding among them and that he would go over in his mind as he had his set times of prayer all the members that he knew of all of those churches praying for them individually and yet even though he would be thankful to God for his work and, Then.

It might not be with the you know, the same measure of thankfulness the way he's talking here abounds and overflows. Certainly you know, there were situations and Philip. Hey, she's.

Yeah in Philippi that needed to be addressed the audience into key needed help agreeing with one another which will hear about later in the letter well but it was not like Corinth or Galatia and so he thanks as God and he makes his requests with joy and some requests you make with grief you guys know this that there is an agonizing in prayer before God even our Lord Jesus we hear on occasion.

Making request of God that comes more with agony than with joy but we ought to desire that those who are praying for us that we would conduct ourselves in such a way that even when they're coming and making requests for us because we still are not what we ought to be and we're not at the point where we ought to be yet.

The request would be made with joy now why are these requests being made with joy well because of their fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now he tells us later that the church in Philippi is the only one that has been consistent in the ministry of giving and receiving with him, so it's not just that they believed the gospel when he preached it to them and that they were joist in the gospel as he taught them the implications of who Christ is and what Christ has done in his life and what Christ.

Is the doing in their lives and all of these things about who Christ is and what Christ has done and what Christ is doing or all good news good news about Jesus and what he is doing and in Philippi there had been Lydia who? Had heard and received them and there had been the jailer and the other prisoners who were imprisoned with Paul and Silas and there are many who had received and responded to the gospel in this way, so they had this fellowship in the in the gospel and their fellowship in knowing who Christ is and what Christ has done and what Christ had done not only in his own life, but specifically in their lives was overflowing in a desire to see other people here who Christ is and what he has done.

To see other people experiencing Christ working in their lives and since they couldn't you know, they lived in Philippi, they can't go everywhere

that the apostle Paul goes by. They can help the Apostle Paul get there and they can help the Apostle Paul Minister there by taking care of and attending to some of his financial needs which we too ought to desire to do with our minister we get going every visit with our minister we can't go everywhere that he goes and evangelizes you guys get to go more than most of the rest of the congregation.

But you guys can help me we can have fellowship in this ministry of the gospel by you getting your school done and doing your chores and being cheerful maintaining peace in the household keeping short accounts with God walking with him faithfully keeping short accounts of one another not letting conflict build up amongst yourselves, if God by his grace strengthens our home in this way, it is a great aid to me and you will be helping others find out who Jesus is what he has done in his life and, We can look forward to him working in their lives and then we can do so also by giving in the church by supporting ministries in which the gospel is faithfully spread and proclaimed and so forth but.

His joy was not just in the fact that their fellowship in the gospel enabled him to minister the gospel it also came out of his love for that now next week when we get to verses 7 through 11, we're gonna hear a lot more about his love for them, but because he loves them their fellowship in the gospel makes him glad because he says aha they believe in the Lord Jesus and the Lord Jesus is working in their lives and they even love him and want others to hear about him this all can only.

Have come about if God has begun a work in them and so he goes from this fellowship in the gospel in verse 5 to recognizing how this fellowship of the God in the gospel came about. 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 very possibly there are believers in the church and Philip.

I who do love the Lord Jesus. And do love the spread of the gospel but are very troubled by that they don't love the Lord Jesus to the extent that they ought to very troubled by how worldly their own hearts and minds and actions often seem not caring so much about the spread of the gospel as they know that they ought to in that as they wish that they did care and so here he comes and he says, It's not just the fact that you do.

But it's the fact that the fact that you do is evidence of Christ having begun to work and we know that what Jesus finishes Jesus starts or Jesus what Jesus starts. I forgot how to sentence finishes what Jesus starts Jesus finishes, and so here we have this fellowship in the gospel that means.

That on the day of Jesus Christ which is the day that Paul thinks about the most when he will be sinless and stand before the Lord Jesus when the Lord Jesus will have returned in glory when all of the Lord's elect will have been brought to faith in him when all of the Lords of elect will have been perfected and shine like the sun and the kingdom of their father and he says the fact that you have fellowship in the gospel with me now means that when we stand there on that day, the work will have been complete and I can't wait.

Till all of your sorrow is gone till all of your tears are going to all of your pain is one especially till all of your sin is gone and I get to see you glorious and the work that Jesus has begun in you Jesus will have finished to you yes, he sent me yes you love to bring gladness to me as one through whom he worked in you but ultimately it's he who is working in you and he will be glorified and you will be glorified and he will be glorified in you having been glorified.

And so there's this aiming at the day of Christ not just in Paul's ministry but even in his love to the people of this congregation that he is writing to here and that helps us when we are struggling with how incomplete thus far our sanctification is the fact that it exists at all this testimony to the fact that it shall be complete one day and we too ought to aim at the day of Christ like this.

So make me glad make your mom glad, you know pray for our sanctification that we too would aim at the day of Christ so that our gladness and the work that Christ had begun would be increased in accordance with such faith and such focus but you also focus on the day of Christ so that you may have gladness and the work that he has begun in those whom you love and even in yourself.

Let's pray. We thank you oh Lord that even our believing the gospel is the result of you having begun a work in us we praise you that you finish what you started we look forward to you coming into the fullness of that, which you have deserved. And receiving that when we thank you that one of the things that you have deserved is that we might at last be perfected help us oh Lord to love your gospel and to love the spread of it and to love others being brought into fellowship with us in believing and spreading the gospel.

We pray that you would fill us with thankfulness and joy over what you have done in ourselves in others and that you would keep us faithful in prayer. Lord help us to live in such a way that those who make requests for us are able to do so with joy because of the evidence that they have seen of a work begun back rights.

In his name and for his glory we ask it amen.