

My Eternal Security
Philippians 1:6-8
Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

1. Introduction

- a. As we saw last week:
 - i. The Christian's joy comes from a place of unwavering gratitude to God for what he has done.
 - ii. This joy is expressed to God in prayers of gratitude for what He has done and for the partnership of fellow believers.
 - iii. We are to pray for the believers that God has placed in our lives.
 - 1. Our prayer should be continuous, with all kinds of prayers, for all believers.

2. Verse 6 – Paul's surety

- a. And I am sure of this,
 - i. Paul is sure of their right standing with God because of their faithful witness to Christ. This coupled by their faithful walk allowed Paul to confidently proclaim his assuredness of their salvation.
 - ii. **Doctrine**: Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy are the evidence of true salvation.
- b. that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
 - i. An element of Joy is anticipation of Glorification.
 - 1. Glorification – One day we will be with the Lord forever.
 - 2. Nothing encourages a Christian more than the thought that one day, not matter what trials we go through here, we will be made perfect in His presence.
- c. He who began –
 - i. It is God that begins our salvation and not man
 - 1. **Hebrews 12:2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - 2. Other verses to consider – Eph 2:8-9; Acts 16:14; Phil 1:29; 2:13; Acts 11:1-2, 18; and etc.

- d. Bring it to completion – There is no possibility of failure or of partial fulfilment
 - e. The day of Christ – the day of final salvation and completion
 - f. **Doctrine**: The Eternal Security of the Believer
3. Verse 7 – Having fellow believers in our hearts
- a. It is right for me to feel this way about you all,
 - i. This is a feeling that is formed in our intellect.
 - b. because I hold you in my heart – Godly Joy produces true affection
 - c. for you are all partakers with me of grace,
 - i. All the believers partake of the same grace.
 - d. both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.
 - i. Defense – GK. *Apologia* – legal term – speech given in defense
 - ii. Confirmation – Gk. *Behaiōsis* – legal term – positive confirmation of the truth
 - 1. They stood with him
 - e. **Doctrine**: Suffering is a grace of which every Christian must participate both individually and corporately.
4. Verses 8 – Affection of Christ Jesus
- a. For God is my witness,
 - i. God would bear witness that the statements of Paul in this matter are true.
 - b. how I yearn for you all
 - i. As we spoke of last week, Paul yearns for all the believers
 - c. with the affection of Christ Jesus.
 - i. **Doctrine**: Our greatest love should be for the Lord and then our fellow brothers and sisters.
 - 1. **Mark 12:29-31** Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."
 - 2. **1 John 4:20-21** If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has

not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

5. Ten things that rob believers of Joy – John MacArthur

- a. A false salvation
- b. The influence of Satan and his demons – Peter “Be sober and vigilant, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion...”
- c. An inadequate understanding of the sovereignty of God
- d. Prayerlessness
- e. Emotional low that frequently follows a spiritual high
- f. Focusing on circumstances or people.
 - i. Unhappy with looks, relationships, etc.
- g. Ingratitude
- h. Forgetfulness
- i. Living by uncontrolled feelings, living by the flesh instead of by the Spirit.
 - i. M. Lloyd-Jones, “...Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself...”
- j. Unwillingness to accept the forgiveness of God

6. Benediction –

- a. **1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.