



Season 8 Podcasts

The Completion of the Gospel

By

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So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'Completion' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“... 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.” Philippians 1:6

Paul was ‘confident’ (*peithó* – persuaded, convinced, trust) that God, who had ‘begun’ (*enarchomai* – commence, make a beginning, start – aorist tense) a ‘good work’ (*ergon agathos* – a deed, toil, labor, that is beneficial, good in any sense) in the Philippian Christians ‘will complete it’ (*epiteleó* – accomplish, finish, make perfect – future tense) ‘until the day of Jesus Christ’ (*achri héméra Christos Iésous* – until or up to, the day, period, time, of Christ Jesus).

Each true Christian (by that I mean someone who really believes, has faith and trust, in Jesus Christ) has a beginning. We are not ‘born’ saved, even if our parents are saved. Every true believer has a beginning. From that ‘beginning point’ we find ourselves on a journey toward an ‘end point.’ That includes what Paul wrote years earlier to the Christians in Corinth:

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

The Apostle Paul wrote this in his letter to the Christians in Rome years before he wrote to the Philippians::

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” Romans 8:29-30

What Paul explains throughout his letters to churches and individuals is the 'process' of 'being conformed' to the image of Christ Jesus. Paul said the process began when God 'foreknew' us. Here's the process:

- God 'foreknows' the believer (*proginóskó* – knew beforehand)
- God 'predestines' the believer to be 'conformed' to the 'image' of His son (*proorizó* – determined beforehand, predetermined, preordained ... *summorphos* – jointly formed into, fashioned into by sharing the same inner essence-identity (form) ... *eikón* – likeness, representation, image))
- God 'calls' the believer who He going to conform to the image of Christ (*kaleó* – call aloud, call forth, invite, bid, summon)
- God 'justifies' the believer who He going to conform to the image of Christ (*dikaioó* – rendered just or innocent, legally approved, made righteous)
- God 'glorifies' the believer who He going to conform to the image of Christ (*doxazó* – rendered glorious,

honored, magnified, to ascribe weight by recognizing real substance (value))

That's a process that began in eternity and will 'finish' (completion) in Glory. We will have the 'gift' of eternal life. We will be changed. We will be immortal and incorruptible. We will be 'like' Christ and with Him forever. That was Paul's 'confidence' about the Christians in Philippi – the completion of the Gospel.

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

Mark McGee

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