

# Philippians Series

Lesson #017

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# Philippians

## Fellowship, Love, and Spiritual Growth

### Philippians 1:7–10



**Php. 1:5, “for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ~RD**

**Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work *of financial partnership* in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ~RD**

**Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you on my mind, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are fellow partners with me of grace.” ~RD**

**Php. 1:5, “for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ~RD**

**Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work *of financial partnership* in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” ~RD**

**Two questions we need to answer:**

**1. For what is Paul thankful?**

**Php. 1:5, “for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,**

**Php. 1:6, “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;” ~NKJV**

**Two questions we need to answer:**

- 1. For what is Paul thankful?**
- 2. For what is he confident?**

## **Two Interpretations:**

- 1. By far the most popular way to understand this verse is that it relates to salvation. The “good work” mentioned either refers to Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification.**

# Three Stages of Salvation

**PHASE  
ONE**



**Justification**

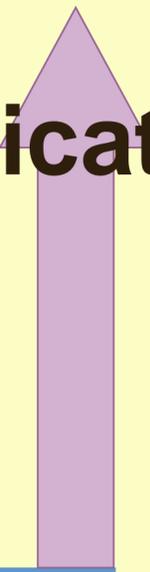
**Saved from  
Penalty of Sin  
“you were saved”**

**PHASE  
Two**

**Spiritual  
Life**

**Saved from  
Power of Sin  
“you are being saved”**

**PHASE  
THREE**



**Glorification**

**Saved from  
Presence of Sin  
“you will be saved”**



## **Two Interpretations:**

- 1. By far the most popular way to understand this verse is that it relates to salvation. The “good work” mentioned either refers to Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification.**

### **Two forms:**

- a. God graciously works in the believer’s life to enable them to grow if they are willing.**

## **Two Interpretations:**

- 1. By far the most popular way to understand this verse is that it relates to salvation. The “good work” mentioned either refers to Phase 1 Justification or Phase 2 Sanctification.**

### **Two forms:**

- a. God graciously works in the believer’s life to enable them to grow if they are willing.**
- b. A genuine believer in Jesus Christ who is truly regenerate, will persevere in faith and good works, until God glorifies them following their death or the Rapture.**

## **The Reformed/Lordship/Calvinist View**

**French Confession of Faith of 1559 (Article XXI) claims the verse for perseverance:**

**“We believe also that faith is given to the elect not only to introduce them into the right way, but also to make them continue in it to the end. For as it is God who hath begun the work, He will also perfect it.”**

## **The Reformed/Lordship/Calvinist View**

### **The Lordship Salvation of John MacArthur:**

**“That ongoing work of grace in the Christian’s life is as much a certainty as justification, glorification, or any other aspect of God’s redeeming work ... [Php. 1:6 is quoted] ... Salvation is wholly God’s work, and He finishes what He starts. His grace is sufficient. And potent. It cannot be defective in any regard.”**

# Outline

- 1A Introduction: Paul's concern for the Philippians, Php. 1:1–11**
- 1B Greeting, Php. 1:1–2**
- 2B Paul's concern and prayer for the Philippians, Php. 1:3–8**
- 3B Paul's prayer that their spiritual growth will result in the praise and glory of God, Php. 1:9–11**
  
- 2A Paul's Joy for the Expansion of the Gospel, Php. 1:12–26**
  
- 6A The Conclusion (Php. 4:10–20)**

**What does “fellowship” mean?**

**Php. 1:5, “for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD**

**κοινωνία *koinōnia* fem sing dat  
fellowship, participation; society;  
partnership**

**Paul uses *koinonia* and *sugkoinonea* as key words which focus on the Philippians' financial contribution and partnership for the expansion of the gospel ministry.**

**Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”**

**συγκοινωνός (*synkoinōnos*)**

**Php. 4:15, “Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.”**

**κοινωνέω (*koinōneō*)**

**Php. 4:14, “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.” ~NKJV**

**Php. 4:14, “Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.”  
~ESV**

**The ESV has a note by “share” that this means to have fellowship in Paul’s adversities.**

**Php. 4:14, “Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.” ~NKJV**

**συγκοινωνέω *sugkoinōneō***

**aorist act participle masc plur nom  
to take part in; participate in with  
someone, be connected with, share**

**“you were partners in my adversity”**

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**κοινωνέω *koinōneō***

**3 sing aor act indic to  
share, take part,  
participate in, give/  
contribute or be a partner  
in**

**Php. 1:5, “for your partnership for [*eis*] the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD**

**κοινωνία *koinōnia* fem sing dat  
fellowship, participation; society;  
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**Rom. 15:26, “For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.” ~NKJV**

**2 Cor. 9:13, “while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,” ~NKJV**

**2 Cor. 9:13, “By their approval [positive evaluation] of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,” ~ESV**

**Php. 1:5, “for your partnership for [*eis*] the gospel from the first day until now,” ~RD**

**The first day of the congregation sending financial contributions to Paul (Php. 4:15)**

**Php. 1:6, “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;” ~NKJV**

**Php. 1:5, “for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,” κοινωνία (*koinōnia*)**

**Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers [financial partners] with me of grace.”**

**συγκοινωνός (*synkoinōnos*)**

**“Rather *ergon agathon* finds its explanation in the fact that the Philippians were partners with Paul in the gospel (v. 5), and shared their resources with him to make the proclamation of the gospel possible. This ‘sharing in the gospel’ is the good work referred to here (cf. 2 Cor. 8:6) [italics original].”**

**~Hawthorne, *Word Biblical Commentary, Philippians*.**

**2 Cor. 8:1, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God which had already been given among the churches of Macedonia:**

**2 Cor. 8:2, “that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.**

**2 Cor. 8:3, “For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,”**

**2 Cor. 8:4, “imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship [*koinonia*] of the ministering [*diakonia*] to the saints.”**

**2 Cor. 8:7, “But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also.**

**2 Cor. 8:8, “I speak not by commandment, but I am evaluating the integrity of your love by the diligence of others.**

**2 Cor. 8:9, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”**

**2 Cor. 8:10, “And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;**

**2 Cor. 8:11, “but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.”**

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**Php. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense [of the gospel] and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”**

**δίκαιος *dikaios***  
**neut sing nom**  
**right, fair;**  
**righteous, just**

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defense; to make a legal  
defense**

**βεβαίωσις *bebaiōsis*  
fem sing dat  
process of establishing or  
confirming something,  
confirmation, validation**

**Php. 1:8, “For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.” ~NKJV**

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**σπλάγχνον *splagchnon*  
neut plur dat entrails,  
heart, affection**

**Php. 1:9, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,**

**Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,**

**Php. 1:11, “being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

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**Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be pure/unsullied and without blame till the day of Christ, ~RD**

**Php. 1:11, “being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

**δοκιμάζω *dokimazō***

**pres act infin**

**to prove, evaluate,**

**approve, test**

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**Php. 1:11, “Having been filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

**δοκιμάζω *dokimazō***  
**pres act infin**  
**to prove, evaluate,**  
**approve, test**

**πληρόω *plēroō***  
**perf mid/pass part**  
**masc plur nom**  
**to fill; fulfill**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **Understanding Biblical Love**



# 1. The role of love in the Christian life.

**Jn. 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

**Jn. 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

**1 Cor. 13:1, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.”**

**1 Cor. 13:2, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”**

**1 Cor. 13:3, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” ~NKJV**

**Gal. 5:14, “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ” ~NKJV**

**Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk by means of the Spirit, and you shall not bring to completion the lust of the flesh.” ~RD**

**Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” ~NKJV**