

## *Philippians 1:6-8*

CONFIDENCE & LOVE

## *Larger Context of Philippians*

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- Paul's prison epistle to the Philippians addresses the following:
  - To reassure the Philippians about the important role of Epaphroditus (2:25-30)
  - Expressing thanks for the Philippians' love gift to Paul in prison (4:10-14)
  - Announcing Timothy's approaching visit (2:19)
- Some have called this letter a thank-you note to the saints in Philippi for their generous gifts. Others have referred to it as a letter of friendship and moral exhortation.
- Of all Paul's epistles Philippians is the most consistently positive and personal. It reflects a joyful spirit. One popular exposition of Philippians stresses the importance of living joyfully in spite of circumstances.

## *Immediate Outline*

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- I. Salutation 1:1-2
- II. Prologue 1:3-26
  - A. Thanksgiving 1:3-8 ←
  - B. Prayer 1:9-11
  - C. Progress report 1:12-26

## *Immediate Context of Ch 1*

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**1:1** - This was a personal letter from Paul rather than one giving correction that needed apostolic authority behind it so the recipients would accept it and act on its instructions. Paul and Timothy are called bond-servants - stressing their loving commitment to their Lord. Paul recognizes the plurality of leadership present at this church when referring to the overseers and deacons.

**1:2** - Christian greeting that points to the truth that before there can be any genuine peace there must be a personal response to God's grace, His unmerited favor seen on the cross. Both grace and peace find their source in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Immediate Context of Ch 1*

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**1:3** - The Philippians must have been filled with joy to hear Paul, who was in Roman chains some 800 miles away, tell them that his love and interest in them had not changed. Every time Paul thought of them he thanked God for them.

**1:4** - Paul fulfilled 1 Thess. 5:17 "pray without ceasing" when he prayed for all the Philippian believers and he didn't with a spirit of joy

## *Immediate Context of Ch 1*

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**1:5** - Paul was moved by their participation in the gospel. Here he uses the word *koinonia*, meaning fellowship. We see three uses of fellowship in Philippians:

- **First**, there was fellowship with Christ, which was revealed in suffering (1:29).
- **Second**, there was fellowship with one another, which was revealed in unity (2:1-11).
- **Third**, there was fellowship with Paul, which was revealed in financial giving (4:16).

## Philippians 1:6-8

**1:6** - For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

**1:7** - For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

**1:8** - For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

## Philippians 1:6a,b

**"For I am confident of this very thing..."** - The verb confident is a perfect tense, showing that Paul is expressing a settled conviction. It could be translated, "I have come to a settled conviction..."

**"...that He who began a good work in you..."** -

**Question** - Is the "good work" here the work of God in the believer? Or is it the work of the believer in ministry?

The context of the verse has to do with the partnership of the Philippians with Paul, & their support for & their involvement with his ministry

## Phil. 1:6 - "Good Work" & "Good Deed"

The phrase "good work(s)" or "good deed(s)" elsewhere in Paul's writings *always refers to the expression of good work(s) by believers, not to the work of the Lord in the believer*

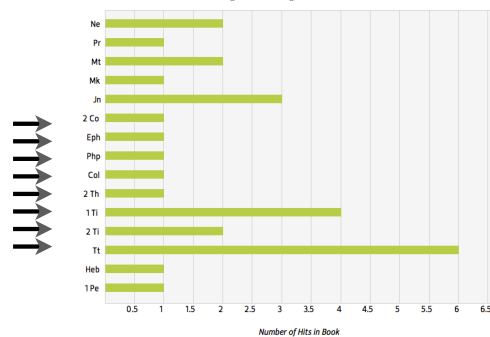
### Single: "good work" or "good deed"

- 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Philippians 1:6
- Colossians 1:10
- 2 Thessalonians 2:17
- 1 Timothy 5:10
- 2 Timothy 2:21
- 2 Timothy 3:17
- Titus 1:16
- Titus 3:1

### Plural: "good works" or "good deeds"

- Ephesians 2:10
- 1 Timothy 2:10
- 1 Timothy 5:10
- 1 Timothy 6:18
- Titus 2:7
- Titus 2:14
- Titus 3:8
- Titus 3:14

"good deed" OR "good work" in NASB95



**Critical point:** A Christian's good works have their origin in the Lord, & not from our own self-effort

## Comparing Phil. 1:3-7 & 2 Cor. 8,9

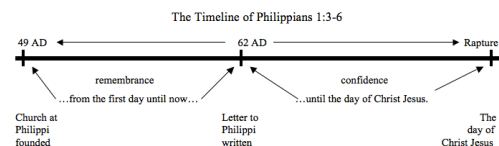
### FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN MINISTRY

| Philippians 1:3-7   | 2 Corinthians 8,9   |
|---|---|
| 1:6 "For I am <b>confident</b> "                                    | 8:22 "but now even more diligent because of his great <b>confidence</b> in you"   |
| 1:6 "He who <b>began</b> a good work in you will <b>perfect</b> it" | 8:6 "So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a <b>beginning</b> , so he would also <b>complete</b> in you this gracious work as well" 8: 10-11 "...who were the <b>first to begin</b> ...to do this...But now <b>finish</b> doing it...so there may be also the <b>completion</b> of it" |
| 1:6 - "He who began a <b>good work</b> "                            | 9:8-9 "you may have an abundance for every <b>good deed</b> ...as it is written, ...he gave to the poor"  |
| 1:6 "perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus"                      | 9:9 "...He gave to the poor, <b>His righteousness abides forever</b> . 9:10 - He...[will] increase the <b>harvest of your righteousness</b> "   |
| 1:7 "you all are partakers of <b>grace</b> with me"                 | 8:1 "the <b>grace</b> of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia" 8:6 "complete in you this <b>gracious work</b> " 8:7 "see that you abound in this <b>gracious work</b> " See also 2 Cor 8:4, 19; 9:8, 14  |

Source: Vern Peterman Notes on Philippians

## Philippians 1:6c

**"...will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."** - The term *will perfect* is a future tense verb and means to complete or finish a job. This verse is a statement of confidence in the Lord's ability to energize the work of partnership in Paul's ministry that has been started in Philippi, all the way to the time of the Lord's coming.



Source: Vern Peterman Notes on Philippians

## *The Lord's Coming in Paul's Writing*

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- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
- Philippians 3:20-21
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10
- 1 Thessalonians 2:17-19
- 1 Thessalonians 3:13
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- 1 Timothy 6:14

## *Philippians 1:7*

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**"For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart..."** - Paul had an emotional connection with these people. They were one of heart for the message of the gospel.

**"both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me."** - It did not matter whether Paul was under arrest or free; his friends at Philippi shared with him in what God was doing through him. That work concerned primarily the spread of the gospel. It was because of their partnership with him that he could propagate God's grace. Paul praised them for their concern that this good news be spread abroad.

**They were gospel centered people!**

## *Philippians 1:8*

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**"For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."** - Paul repeats how deeply he felt unity and love for these Philippians.