

August 24, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Phil. 1:6 *Being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

Have you ever started a project and then got side-tracked, and a few months, or maybe years, it still isn't finished? Sometimes we just don't have what it takes to finish well. In fact, when we work in our own power, we certainly fall short. But not so with the Master. When He starts something, He will finish it. And here is a prime example. When God created all things, He created us so that we could walk in His love and experience what real life is all about. He desires a loving and lasting relationship with His children. But then entered sin and self and that relationship was severed, and a great chasm was formed between God and man. I'm so glad that He did not give up on us at that point, but instead the plan of redemption began. Over the next few thousands of years, He foretold that a time would come that we could again walk in a perfect relationship with Him. And this culminated with these words of Jesus: ***It is finished!*** These are the greatest three words ever uttered! Our sin-debt was purchased with the perfect blood of the Lamb of God. *Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.* - **Elvina M. Hall**

On the day that Christ's work was accomplished for our salvation, His work of sanctification began in anyone who would believe upon Him. Now Paul reminds us in today's verse that He (Jesus) Who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete the work that He has started. This work is the work of true life. It is transforming what was once dead into what is truly alive. Meditate on Paul's words to the church in Ephesus: **Eph. 2:1-5 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (NIV)*** And because of this, He continues to mold us and make us into His likeness! And He will not start something that He will not finish.

Dear LORD, thank You for completing what you started in us. You always do perfect and perfecting work. In Your eyes, we are completed. Thank You LORD! Jesus Name, Amen