

January 23, 2022

A Fresh Look

by Warren Berkley

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:6-11)

This text begins with a statement of **Paul's confidence in God**. Think of it like this. God doesn't accept penitent, obedient believers into His family, then keep them from their eternal destination. Peter said to Christians – we have tasted that God is good (1 Pet. 2:3).

God doesn't – by His Grace – get people out of sin and get them started on the right course, then not complete the work. Paul gives assurance of this (verse 6): "...I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Start right by obeying the gospel. **Once out of sin, live in and with Christ and**

God will see you through the work to the destination. Take heart in that. It is a guarantee to the faithful. You can count on this beyond any promises that you ever hear. John said "this is the confidence" and he said to God's faithful, "we know that when He appears we shall be like Him..." (1 John 3:2).

Paul writes of this same confidence to the faithful in Philippi: "It is right for me to feel this way about you, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel."

Paul was certain – these are the kind of people God loves and helps and keeps. The Christians at Philippi were with Paul, partakers with him, and identified with him. Thus, Paul said, "it is right for me to feel this way about you."

It gets personal in verse 8: "For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus." God knew how close Paul was to the Christians in Philippi. It was more than passing acquaintance. He longed for them, yearning with the affection of Jesus Christ.

For the Philippians, Paul prayed: "...that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment." Observe three things to be combined in the life of every Christian: **Love, Knowledge & Discernment.**

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Lectures in Killeen - Each Friday in January is a different speaker and topic.

San Marocs - gospel meeting, February 25-27 with David Watson.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Love alone, without good direction, will not serve us well or bring us closer to God. Knowledge, without love and discernment, can easily become a basis for inordinate pride. Discernment, without love and knowledge, becomes competitive and judgmental. **All three are essential – love, driven by knowledge and checked by discernment.**

“So that you may approve what is excellent, and so, be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.” Having love in good proportion with knowledge and discernment prepares the Christian for a good experience in “the day of Christ.” And, while here on earth, fills you “with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

This passage is rich in assurance and encouragement from a faithful God.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson has improved some but still has limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams is home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing, he is on oxygen at all times.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother) is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

Mark Braddock has stage 4 cancer and is not going to seek treatment. He is starting to feel poorly from it.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing chemo.

Randall Vanaman is having problems with one of his feet.

David Beckley is having health problems.

Ana Urquhart recently broke her arm.

Jim & Arlene are recovering from covid.

Leta Ebeling is ill.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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