

## ***The Christian's Confidence***

March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### ***Philippians 1:6***

#### **Paul's Confidence in God**

❖ In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he wrote "*I am sure of this...*"

*Confidence*: "... an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, ..." <sup>1</sup>

❖ Paul was confident in the faithfulness of Christ to fulfill His purpose both in and through the lives of His people!

❖ Paul was confident "...that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..."

- All people are insecure by nature because of our separation from God due to our sin.

*Isaiah 59:2 "but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."*

- Unbelievers are anxious about their lives.

*Matthew 6:31-32 "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."*

- Christians must understand that God initiated our salvation by His grace (*Ephesians 2:8-9*) and will sustain us by His grace (*Hebrews 4:16*). This is the source of our joy!

☞ Not all who profess to be Christians are truly Christian!

- Matthew 7:21-23

☞ True Christians will pursue a holy and Godly lifestyle!

- 1 John 2:1-6

☞ True Christians can waste their lives!

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

#### **God preserves and leads His people**

❖ Jesus revealed God's ability to preserve His people!

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* John 10:27-30

❖ The Holy Spirit reveals God's calling and purpose for His people!

*"And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image*

*of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.” Romans 8:28-30*

### **God Fulfills His plan and purpose through His people.**

- ❖ Peter’s life is an example of God’s call and purpose being fulfilled.
  - Peter’s calling *Matthew 4:18-20*
  - Peter’s faltering *Matthew 14:28-31*
  - Peter denies Jesus *Matthew 26:69-75*
  - Peter goes back to fishing *John 21:3*
  - Jesus reconfirms Peter’s call and purpose in glorifying God! *John 21:15-19*
- ❖ God fulfilled His plan and purpose through Israel – God’s chosen people!
  - Israel, a nation birthed by God! *Genesis 12:1-3*
  - Israel was rebellious against God. *Psalms 78:8*
  - Israel constantly grumbled and complained. *Exodus 16:2*
  - God fulfilled His plan of redemption through imperfect people!
    - … The lineage of Jesus is a list of imperfect people. *Matthew 1:2-16*
    - … Gentile Christians inherit the blessings of God’s work through the Israelites! *Romans 9:4-5*

**Paul’s joy in prison was a result of his confidence in God’s Sovereign Grace!**

*“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.”*

*Philippians 1:6*

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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