

## **PBPGINFWMY**

If you look around the average home, you'll likely find unfinished projects, books, knitting, sewing or painting. All of those things are at some stage of incompleteness. God, however, never leaves anything unfinished. A popular acronym in the 70s meant: Please be patient God is not finished with me yet! Today's Templates of Truth explores the Scripture from which this expression comes.

In writing his letter to the church at Philippi, the Apostle Paul said, *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* (Philippians 1:6). The word Paul used that is translated *perfect* means to perform through to completion. That God would accomplish this in the life of each believer was something Paul was absolutely confident and convinced of. The *work* to which Paul referred has three aspects.

**A justifying work** – The work God is performing in each of us begins at the moment we surrender our heart & life to Him as our personal Savior & Lord. But, oh what a work He has already accomplished for us at that very moment. All of our sins are totally forgiven, the guilt, condemnation & penalty of our sin is completely lifted, we are filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit of God, and we are given the absolute gift of eternal life in heaven – guaranteed & secure! No other person or power can accomplish all of that for us, except God. He justifies us unto Himself as holy and acceptable for every plan and purpose He establishes for our life.

**A sanctifying work** – Later in this letter, Paul clarified that *it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure* (2:13). It comes as a surprise for many that God actually has a specific will, plan and purpose He seeks to accomplish in and through the life of each believer. In order for God to perform His work in us, however, He needs our availability & cooperation. Paul says it this way – *so then, my brethren, just as you have always obeyed...work out your salvation with fear and trembling* (2:12). It might sound contradictory & confusing, but Paul is helping us to understand how the work gets accomplished. God does the work through us, but it demands our respect & obedience to the process. Paul teaches us elsewhere in his writings that God has endowed each believer with spiritual gifts that enable us to carry out the work He has called each of us to do. Not only is God accomplishing the work of His Kingdom here on earth through us, He is also preparing us for heaven by sanctifying us - making us more and more into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

**A glorifying work** – Paul specified that this work God has begun in us will be ongoing *until the day of Christ Jesus*. That means that God is still accomplishing His work in and through us until He raptures us into heaven or until we die. That further means that we don't ever retire from Kingdom work. As long as we are living & breathing on earth, the work in us goes on. When we are faithful & obedient to the task and our job is complete, God will not leave us here a single moment longer than necessary. He will bring us home to our heavenly reward to live eternally in His presence.

The *day of Christ Jesus* refers to that moment when the trumpet sounds and all the church is raptured into heaven. In that instance, our earthly bodies will be transformed into glorified bodies made fit for eternal existence in heaven. As I study Biblical prophecy, I am convinced that nothing more must come to fulfillment before the rapture occurs. It is the next eschatological event on God's calendar, and it can occur at any moment now.

We are not getting younger and time is running out. Whatever it is that God wants to accomplish in and through us, we must be about while there is still time. The signs of the time should give us a strong sense of urgency about the work God has called each of us to do. The things we place so much value in and priority to fade in comparison to that urgency. There are people we love, work with, associate with, live in family with who need to give their hearts and lives to Christ in salvation while there is still time. Part of our work is to share the Gospel with them in an effort to bring them to Christ. The trumpet has not yet sounded, so God is not done and neither are you and I. Jesus admonished us in John 9:4 – *We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.*

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.

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