

Gaining Christ and being made perfect in one

„... being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ“ (Phil. 1:6)

- I. God completing in us the good work he has begun until the day of Jesus Christi (Phil. 1:6)**
 - A. Receiving and experiencing God’s saving life (Acts 16:11-40; Acts 4:12)**
 1. God is life and light (John 1:1-4)
 2. Receiving eternal life in Jesus (John 1:12-13; John 17:3)
 3. Faith and baptism in Philippi (Acts 16:14-15; Hebr. 7:25)
 - B. Knowing God’s purpose and making ourselves one with Him (Phil. 3:12-13; 1.Cor. 8:2)**
 1. When the heart turns to the Lord, glory is manifested (2.Cor. 3:16-18)
 2. Jesus wants to build His church with us (Matt. 16:18)
 3. The reality of the church life in our locality today (Acts 2:42-47)
 4. Our citizenship: the holy city, Jerusalem out of heaven from God (Rev. 21:10; Phil. 3:20-21)
 - C. Being perfected by faith and in oneness with all the saints (Phil. 1:9-11; 3:20-21)**
 1. Comprehending in love with all the saints (Eph. 3:17-18)
 2. Proofing the things which differ (which are not Christ)
 3. Being pure and without offense

II. The good work of Christ (Phil. 1:1-11)

A. Christ and the church – the purpose and the treasure of our life (Phil. 1:1-2)

1. The church in Philippi is formed (Acts 16:6-40)
2. We need an ear to hear and an understanding and an obedient heart (Rev. 2:7; Ezek. 2:7; 3:10-11; Acts 20:27; Eph. 5:17; John 21:21-22)
3. The decision of our heart – to live a life dedicated to the church (2.Tim. 2:1-4, 7, 9-10; Ps. 123:1-2; John 17:20-23)

B. The local church life – Unity in reality (Phil. 1:3-8)

1. Our prayer with joy and thanksgiving, making request for our brothers and sisters (Phil. 1:3-4; 1.Cor. 12:18, 22-27)
2. Fighting together to build up the church (Phil. 1:5, 7; Phil. 2:20, 30; Hebr. 3:12-14)
3. A work to express unity in a locality (Phil. 1:6; Eph. 2:10, 14-16)

C. Unity in a locality glorifies the Father (Phil. 1:9-11)

1. Abounding in love in all knowledge and discernment – living our Lord together (Phil. 3:8a; 2.Thess. 1:3-5, 11-12; Col. 2:1-4)
2. Proofing the things which differ– the preciousness of the church (Rev. 3:11; 1.Thess. 3:11-13; 2.Cor. 11:2-3; Col. 2:8; Rom. 16:17-18)
3. The father wants to be glorified by the unity of His redeemed – all glory is due to the Lord (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; Rom. 15:5-6)

III. Living Christ (Phil. 1:12-30)

A. Fellowship in the gospel

(Phil. 1:5-6, 12, 19-21)

1. From the first day until now (Phil. 1:5)
2. Our personal circumstances should turn out for the furtherance of the gospel (Phil. 1:12)
3. The gospel is a matter for the church (Acts 2:4; 1. Cor. 14:24-25; Eph. 3:8-10; Rev. 22:17)

B. Magnifying Christ in our body

1. Everything turns out for our salvation (Phil. 1:19)
 - a) Through the prayer of the saints
 - b) Through the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ
2. Our expectation: Not to be ashamed in anything
3. With all boldness Christ shall be magnified in our body (whether by life or by death)
4. For me to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21)

C. Serving the saints

1. Fruit from our labour as a result of our consecration to the church (Phil. 1:22)
2. Helping the saints for their progress and joy (Phil. 1:24-25; Hebr. 6:10; 2. Cor. 1:24; Is. 50:4)

C. A conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ

1. A life in accordance with the gospel (Eph. 4:1-6)
2. Standing fast in one spirit; the unity of the spirit (Eph. 4:1-6)
3. Striving together with one soul (Phil. 1:27)
4. The world can know God through the unity of the church (John 17:22-23)

IV. The mind of Christ for the unity of the believers in a locality (Phil. 2:1-16)

A. God has provided everything for us so that we can be built up with all the saints in our locality (Phil. 2:1-2)

1. To keep the unity our mind must be renewed, i.e. we need the mind of Christ (Eph. 4:23-24; Rom. 12:2)
2. The nature of the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:3-8; John 13:1-5, 14-17)
 - a. Free from self ambition
 - b. In lowliness esteeming others better than oneself
 - c. Also look for the interests of others

B. Not to dispute over opinions, but rather resolving this, not to put a stumbling block in our brother's way (Rom. 14)

1. Trusting that God will give revelation (Phil. 3:15; John 6:37, 44)
2. If we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, He will exalt us in due time (Phil. 2:8-11; 1.Petr. 5:5-7)

C. We can work out our own salvation, for it is God who works in us both to will and to do (Phil. 2:12-13)

V. Knowing Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:1-11)

A. Paul's concern to protect the brothers (Phil. 3:1; Jn. 17:11-12)

1. Hearing the same things again is a protection (2.Tim. 3:14-15; 2.Pe. 1:12, 19)
2. Beware of evil workers and do not put your trust in men (cf. 2. Co. 11; 1.Th. 2:13-16)
3. We are the circumcision, who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3)

B. Knowing Christ

1. As to zeal, persecuting the church (Phil. 3:6; 1.Co. 15:9; 1.Tim. 1:13)
2. Revelation about Christ and the church (Acts 9:5; Eph. 5:32)
3. Knowing Christ together (Acts 9:10-18; Song. 1:8; Acts 18:25-26)

C. That I may gain Christ

1. Paul rejects his former life (Ga. 1:13-14; Acts 22:3)
2. Suffering the loss of all things and counting them refuse (Mk. 10:21; Mt. 4:22; Lu. 18:29-30)
3. The way to experience Christ daily: Not having your own righteousness of the law, but through faith (Ga. 3:11; He. 10:37-38)
4. Being conformed to His death – the liberating effect of the cross (Song. 2:14)
5. Attaining by any means to the out-resurrection (Phil.3:11)

VI. Laying hold of Christ, our prize

(Phil. 3:10-16)

A. Christ is precious (1.Pe. 2:4-7)

1. Such as Paul, also we as His church want to know Him, lay hold of Him and pursue Him (Rev. 3:10-13),
2. Not remaining idle or unfruitful (2.Pe. 1:8)
3. Much more attaining to the out-resurrection when the Lord comes back (Rev. 20:6)
4. Enjoying the foretaste today, and when He returns the full reward (Eph. 1:13-14; 2.Co. 1:22; 2.Co. 5:5)

B. We have not yet laid hold, but we pursue (Phil. 3:12-14)

1. We lay hold of together for which we have been laid hold of by Christ
2. We forget the things of the past and stretch forward to the things which are before
3. We pursue toward the goal for the prize

C. Those who have grown in the Lord should pursue this goal (Phil. 3:15)

D. Whereunto we have attained, let us walk in it (Phil. 3:16; He. 13:8-9; 1.Jn. 1:1-2)

VII. The eager expectation of our Savior and the manifestation of His masterpiece (Phil. 3:17-21)

A. Being laid hold of by Christ to walk in an exemplary manner (1.Pe. 1:15; Eph. 5:2, 8-10; Phil. 1:9-11; 2:15-16)

1. Not being enemies of the cross (Mt. 7:21-23; Eph. 4:17-21; He. 12:16)
 - a. The cross against the flesh (Ga. 5:24; 6:12)
 - b. The cross towards the world (Ga. 6:14; Mk. 4:7, 18-19; Lu. 8:7, 14; James 4:4; 1.Jn. 2:15-17)
 - c. The cross against the soul life / the ego and against vainglory (Ga. 2:19-20; Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Jn. 5:44; Mt. 24:(45-47), 48-51; Mt. 25:(14-23), 24-30; He. 12:15)
2. Putting to death the practices of the body through the Spirit and gaining oil to be transformed in the soul (Ro. 8:13; Eph. 5:18-21; 2.Co. 3:18; Mt. 25:1-13)
3. Acquiring the marriage garment through our walk and our righteous acts (Mt. 22:2, 10-14; Rev. 3:4-5, 18; 7:9, 13-14; 16:15; 19:8, 14)

B. Our citizenship is in the heavens (1.Co. 15:47-49; Ga. 3:27-28; Col. 3:10-11)

1. Eagerly awaiting our Lord Jesus Christ who will come like a thief to pick us up (Lu. 12:35-40; Mk. 13:(24-31), 32-37; Mt. 24:(29-36), 40-44; Rev. 3:2-3; 14:14-16; 16:15; 22:12, 20)
2. The transfiguration of the body of our humiliation into a body of His glory (1.Th. 5:23; Ro. 8:23; 1.Co. 15:42-44, 50-54)
3. The manifestation of his masterpiece (Ps. 48:1-2; 50:2; 102:16; 110:2; Joel 3:16-17; Mi. 4:7-8; Zech. 8:3; Ro. 8:18-21; 2.Th. 1:10; Rev. 3:10-12; 14:1, 4-5; 7:9, 13-17; 19:7-9)

VIII. Being completed with all saints as one in the church (Phil. 4)

A. Standing firm together, being one in the Lord (Phil. 4:1)

1. Our basis: in one spirit we are all one in Christ (Eph. 4: 3-6, 13; 1.Co. 12:13; Ga. 3:28)
2. Our sphere: in life and nature we are one such as the Father and the Son (Jn. 17:20-26)
3. Our cooperation and our joy: Thinking the same thing in the Lord (Phil. 4:2-4; Eph. 4:13)

B. Holding forth together the testimony of our oneness in the world (Phil. 1:1; 2:14-16; cf. Jn. 17:21, 23)

1. Being one with each other (Phil. 4:2; Acts 4:32a)
2. Being joined in soul, thinking the same thing and having the same love (Phil. 2:2)
3. Being obedient to the Lord and counting one another more excellent than oneself (Phil. 2:3-4, 12-13)
4. Consecrating yourself practically for the saints (Phil. 2:4, 17-18, 20-21, 25, 29-30; 4:8-10; Acts 20:24; Ro 16:1-4)

C. Seeing His glory in the church until His work is completed (Phil. 4:20; Jn. 17:22, 24)

1. Learning through Christ to be pure, without offense, without blemish, guileless unto the day of Christ (Phil. 1:10; 2:15; 4:8-9)
2. In Christ, everything can be filled in us in glory for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13; 4:18-19)
3. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil. 4:20)