

# Philippians

*A Life of Purpose and Joy*

## God Will Finish What He Started

**Date:** Sunday 21st March

**Speaker:** Jeff Stamps

**Key Verses:** Philippians 1:1-12

### Talk Summary:

- Paul's situation under house arrest was remarkably similar to our current situation.
- This need to rely on the generosity of others is how we ended up with the book of Philippians. Paul is writing to thank the Church in Philippi for sending him money.
- Secondly, but probably most importantly Paul is writing to encourage the Philippian church to keep on living a life of radical faith.
- Paul explicitly addresses how to live a life of Jesus centred faith in this letter, but if we read between the lines you can also see the mind-set that Paul had, that enables him to find joy and purpose even in his lockdown.
- (v3-6) Gratitude + Prayer + Purpose + Faith = Joy
- These things allow us to take hold of the truth of what Jesus has done for us, internalises them and allows them to shape our actions, thoughts, emotions and responses.
- In verse 6 We see Paul's faith, his confident trust in God's faithfulness.
- Sanctification: We will be and we are being remade in the image of Jesus. We have been adopted into God's family and he is in the process of restoring the family likeness in us.
- This final outcome (glorification) is guaranteed. Because it's not based on what we do but on the faithfulness of God.
- Alan Scott: "Because of God's faithfulness our past failures will not determine our future fruitfulness".
- That is the message of hope and Grace that we see in verse 6. God will finish what he has started in you.
- There is nothing you can do that will disqualify you from receiving everything that Jesus has purchased for you. You might miss out on blessings, or opportunities that he wanted to give you in this life - but the love of god, eternal life, forgiveness from sin... and so much more are yours.
- One day you will be free from that pattern of behaviour or thinking that you are stuck in now. If you respond well to God and partner with what he is doing in you it might be in this life. But I can tell you this

it will defiantly be in the next. Your freedom is guaranteed, you have the Holy spirit at work in you and it was purchased at the cross.

- 'Paul's prayer for the Philippians is my prayer for our church. That we would be a people who love and know Jesus. That we would choose the things that please him, living lives to the full. That as we do we would make a difference, that many people would come to know God, his love and his forgiveness. Much like Paul's message to the Philippian church, I think God would say to us, well done, but keep going. I have more for you.

## Worship

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

## Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What did you find helpful about Sunday's talk?
- Which of these four things do you feel invited to grow in or get more clarity on? Gratitude, Prayer, Purpose, Faith.
- There is nothing you can do that will disqualify you from receiving everything that Jesus has purchased for you. – Discuss

## Witness

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- Who are you going to invite to Easter? Pray for your friends who don't know Jesus yet.
  - Easter Sunday is a great invite opportunity! More details at [bvc.so/easter](http://bvc.so/easter)
  - A new online Alpha course begins 14<sup>th</sup> April, if you know anyone who is exploring faith feel free to invite them. More details at [bvc.so/alpha](http://bvc.so/alpha)