

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 13 UNDERSTANDING OUR SALVATION

Philippians 1: 6

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”

Most personal salvation testimonies go something like this: “I came to Jesus; I gave my life to Him; I repented of my sin; I decided to follow Jesus.” Note the continual use of the word “I” as if it all depended on the person giving the testimony. When we get to heaven, we will find out how little we actually had to do with our salvation. Salvation is, from start to finish, from first to last, the work of God Himself in us. He sought us. He found us. He began the good work in us. He keeps us. And one day He will present us faultless before His Father’s throne.

THE ORIGIN OF OUR SALVATION “he who began a good work in you.”

Who began the good work in you? The Lord. We may think we did. No, God did. Just as in the early chapters of Genesis when God covered the sin of Adam and Eve, God is still the initiator in covering our sins today. In our natural condition we are unresponsive to the Gospel: the Bible refers to us as “dead” in our sins (Romans 6:11). We are also unperceptive: the Gospel is “veiled”, and the God of this age has “blinded” the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Without Christ, we are also unteachable: not only can we not receive the things of God, but we also consider them foolish and cannot know them because they are only spiritually discerned (see 1 Corinthians 2:14). Finally we are unrighteous: we read in Psalm 51:5 “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”. Since being unresponsive, unperceptive, unteachable and unrighteous is the condition in our natural state, something outside of us must intervene to enable us to become responsive and righteous before God. Then we must conclude it is God Himself who initiated our salvation. As our text says, **“he who began a good work in you.”** We are raised out of spiritual death: that is “born again”. The origin of our salvation lies not within us but with God Himself. He takes the initiative. He convicts us of sin. He convinces us of our righteousness in Him. He calls us out of darkness into His marvellous light. He redeems us for His own. Yes, He begins the good work in us.

THE OUTCOME OF SALVATION

“(He) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”

What is the outcome of this marvellous salvation provided us in Christ? It means we are secure. We are secure in the now life and the next life as well. Christ, who began the good work, will finish it. He will not let us go. Since we are not saved by performing good works, we are not kept by performing good works. The Apostle Paul said, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him (Colossians 2:6). If faith is good enough to save us, it is good enough to live by. If Christ can give us new life, He can keep us in that new life. If man takes the initiative in salvation, he must retain the responsibility for the final outcome. If God takes the initiative in salvation, then it is God who retains the responsibility for the final outcome. And, as Paul said. “He will complete it”. Our salvation is not a matter of us holding on until the bitter end. God reaches down and grabs hold of us with His strong hand. When we stumble, He is there to hold on to us and keep us from falling. We are secure in the now life. We are secure in the next life. The Lord will and complete us **“until the day of Christ Jesus”**. *The day of Christ* suggests that grand and glorious day when He will come again to receive us as His own. On that day the church - the body of Christ - becomes the bride of Christ. Jesus said, “and this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me but raise them up at the last day” (John 6:39). Yes, we can be confident of this fact. He will keep us **“until the day of Christ Jesus”**. We are living now in the great “until”.... The day of Jesus Christ. Until then, we can trust Him and know we are secure in the now life and in the next life that is to come.

As you memorise this verse this week, meditate on the fact that your salvation is, from first to last, all the doing of Him who loves you and gave Himself for you. Since He is the origin of it all, you can trust Him with the outcome of it all. As the famous hymn says,
“Blessed assurance Jesus is mine”.