

Faith Talk - Feb. 1, 2026

Series: Philippians: Together for the Gospel

Sermon: Confidence: Participation in the Gospel

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

Philippians 1:6

I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Summary

This sermon launches a new series on Philippians titled "Together for the Gospel," introducing the context and purpose of Paul's letter to the Philippian church.

Pastor Brian used the "three A's" and the "three O's" to establish the foundation for understanding this letter.

Three A's:

- **Author** - Paul
- **Audience** - believers and church leaders in Philippi
- **Association** - their partnership through salvations, miracles, and persecution

Three O's:

- **Occasion** - Paul's imprisonment causing concern,
- **Overview** - God's plan to spread the Gospel through the church
- **Outcome** - being a church God uses

The Philippian church was concerned that Paul's imprisonment would hinder the advancement of the Gospel, but Paul reassures them with a critical promise in verse 6: God will complete the "good work"—not just individual sanctification (Phil. 2:13), but also the church's participation in spreading the Gospel until Christ returns.

Through Epaphroditus's visit and return with this letter, Paul challenges believers to move from supporting missions to personal ownership and active partnership in the Gospel.

Discussion Questions

Conversations for Adults

1. Paul writes to reassure the Philippians that God's Gospel work continues even when key leaders are imprisoned or removed. How have you seen God continue His work despite setbacks, persecution, or loss of leadership?

2. The sermon emphasizes that Philippians 1:6 is about God completing the work of spreading the Gospel through the church, not just individual sanctification. How does this corporate understanding change your view of your role in the church's mission?
3. The Philippian church moved from supporting Paul's missionary work to being challenged toward personal ownership. What would it look like for you to move from "supporting missions" to actively "owning and participating" in Gospel advancement?

Conversations with Students

1. The Philippian church included people from all walks of life—wealthy businesswomen, enslaved people, blue-collar workers. How does knowing the Gospel is for everyone affect how you view sharing your faith at school?
2. Paul was in prison when he wrote this encouraging letter. What challenges or limitations in your life could God use for spreading the Gospel rather than hindering it?
3. The sermon describes the church as "the most amazing organism in the world." What makes the church different from other organizations or clubs you're part of?

Conversations with Kids

1. Paul wrote this letter while he was in jail to help his friends not worry. When have you needed encouragement from someone, and how did it help you?
2. The church in Philippi sent money and a friend (Epaphroditus) to help Paul. What are ways our family can help our church, missionaries, or people who tell others about Jesus?
3. God used all kinds of people in Philippi—rich people, workers, and people who needed help. How can God use kids to tell others about Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing the church as Your instrument to spread the Gospel throughout the world. We're grateful for the promise that You will complete the good work of Gospel advancement through Your church until Christ returns.

We ask for help in moving beyond merely supporting missions to actively owning and participating in the spread of the Gospel. Give us the same confidence Paul had, that even when circumstances seem discouraging, or leaders are removed, Your sovereign plan continues unhindered.

We commit to being a church that comes together with unity and focuses on what is most important: the spread of the Gospel to the glory and praise of God.

Help us grow in knowledge and discernment. Use us, ordinary people from all walks of life, to accomplish Your extraordinary purposes. In Jesus' name, Amen.