



2016: Week 38

Sunday, September 18th 2016

"Live Like Champions"

Philippians 1:6

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns" (NLT).

On Sunday John continued our church-wide sermon series in the **Book of Philippians**. From the onsite of the sermon, John compared those in the Philippian church to players competing on a winning team that has already clinched its division. Each player is already a champion just by being on the team. However, just because the team has clinched its division doesn't mean that its players start taking it easy, stop caring, or refrain from playing hard. Players on championship teams often care and compete the hardest! Being on a championship should motivate one to pursue even further excellence and continue giving maximum effort. In a similar sense, the believer is a champion in Christ. By trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and the work He accomplished at the cross, a person is graciously forgiven of their sins, saved from condemnation, and promised eternal life. The believer is a champion because Jesus is the Champion over sin and death. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is also our motivation to live like His champions!

1. READ Philippians 1:1

- To whom was this letter addressed?
- What is a "saint"? How does one become one?
- In **1 Corinthians 1:2**, Paul identifies the Corinthian believers as "saints by *calling*." In **Ephesians 1:4** Paul tells the Ephesian believers that God had *chosen* them to be His *holy* people. In **Romans 8:28-30** Paul reminds the Roman believers that God has special plans for those whom He has called and chosen, including "being conformed to the image of His Son." A saint is simply one who has trusted in Christ for salvation. Contrary to the modern belief that a saint has earned such status by living a merit-worthy life, the Bible reminds us that a person is a saint **because of what Jesus did, not because of what that person did**. If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, the Bible would classify you as a saint by God's calling.

2. READ Philippians 1:2-8

- How can believers share in a "participation in the gospel" (v.5)?
- When Paul says that God began the "good work in you" in v.6, what does He mean?
- Regarding v.6, what does it mean that God will "continue" (NLT), or "perfect" (NASB), or "carry on to completion" (NIV) the work He has done in the believer? How does this impact your thinking? How should this impact the way you live your life?

3. READ Philippians 1:9-11

- In this section, Paul exhorts the Philippians to abound in love and discernment. Which do you find easier to employ, love or discernment?
- How can the Lord help you better share love toward others? How can the Lord help you better implement discernment in your decisions?
- How does knowing that you are a champion on Jesus' team impact the way you live? What needs to change in your life today that is preventing you from living well as a champion in Christ?

FAMILY PRAYER: If you have responded to the Lord's calling to trust in His Son, take time now and thank Him for His mercy and grace. Ask the Lord to help you live in the strength of His Spirit according to the truths of His Word. Ask the Lord to help you live well as His champion.