



Scripture Theme 2014-2015

Adapted from Philippians 1:6

"Good work will remain in you until the day of Christ."

Paul's Letter to the Philippians 1:6-8

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Background

Shortly after the death of Jesus, Saul (whose name was later changed to Paul) was an active participant in the condemning of Jesus' followers. In chapter nine of the Acts of the Apostles, Saul had a sudden, significant conversion experience to Jesus. He changed his name to Paul. Paul spent the remainder of his life telling others about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Most Biblical scholars think that some of Paul's letters to the communities he started are the oldest documents in the New Testament.

This passage is taken from the introduction of Paul's letter to a community of Christians in Philippi that he helped form around the year 49. Paul is under house arrest at the time of this letter. With a clear sense of optimism and joy, Paul focuses on unity and humbleness in his message to the people in Philippi.

Paul wished that the Philippians be united with each other. They now belonged to the Body of Christ. It was necessary that they set aside their differences and work together for the common good.

Secondly, Paul wanted the Philippians to approach one another humbly. When people are united with one another, they approach one another humbly. Humility softens the differences between people.

Consider reading the entirety of Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Questions for Reflection

- Who are the people that inspire you to make sacrifices for the good of others?
- Paul writes of his confidence in God. How do you sustain your confidence in God?
- How do you maintain your place in the "Body of Christ" in times of tension or disagreement?
- Who helps you remain humble in your service to the "Body of Christ"?
- What "good work" are you called to perform for your family, BSM and the greater world?

