

/// Because I Have You in My Heart

Philippians 1:6 – 9

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is still visiting Paul in prison as he awaits trial before the madman Nero. The utter soundness of the doctrine this epistle holds when presented properly, correctly and completely is theology any serious student of Scripture will desire to grasp and hold in their heart and minds. There are great verses of tremendous truth in this prison letter; such as are not to be found anywhere else in Scripture. Some of those verses are totally overlooked and ignored today; while others are completely taken out of context, overly used, wholly abused, or sometimes hijacked to support a quasi-peanut religious theory that, in the end, leaves the faith of those who trusted such false teachings shipwrecked on a spiritual desert island — broken and abandoned, beyond hope. Well, if you will come along with us on this expedition through the entire Word of God, our Teacher - the Holy Spirit - is going to get us all straightened out; I promise you that....

***6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:***

~ Verse six is the life verse of mine, Andrew C. Hunt, creator and author of the Spiritual Safari; so, this report is going to be much more personal than any other report I have ever written — and it may be repulsive to most readers. This verse has so much meaning that I'm not sure I can capture every aspect it holds — but I'm going to try. Let me begin by saying empathically this verse alone proves those people who believe that someone can lose their salvation are calling God a liar. Once we are genuinely saved, my friends, God is going to fulfill His plan and purpose of His work in your life until Christ Jesus appears in the air to call us to go be with Him forever! If you have any doubt about that, then you just don't happen to understand what you are reading now. If you do not understand what you are reading, then the Holy Spirit is not teaching you — and never has. If the Holy Spirit has not taught you that what I am writing is the whole truth, then all you have is an empty religion that you believe in vain. Why

not stop reading right now and pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment?

We recently completed the Book of Proverbs. We were challenged by many things that we are to do — and other things we are *NOT* to do. We're not to be liars, we're not to be sluggards, we're not to be hypocrites, we're not to be gossips, we're not to be lazy — there are many, many things that Solomon told us *not* to do. Unfortunately, nothing was offered in Proverbs that would empower us to conduct ourselves appropriately, and do — or not do — all of those things. Only here in the New Testament are we given power from the Holy Spirit as His promise is revealed in us; and this verse reveals that empowerment.

If God has saved you then it was His work, friends. God has this world shut up, and abjectly subject to, the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has only *ONE* question for us: what will we do with His Son Who died for us? Until we answer that question, God has nothing else to discuss with us. However, if we answer that we have accepted how Christ died for our sins, and rose again from the dead for our justification, as fact and reality, then God has many things to say to us; because He has begun a good work in us — but He doesn't say everything all at one time. We must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior. Jesus said to the apostles, *"I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."* Well, God only reveals His Word to us one truth at a time, very slowly, and only as we study and meditate on Him.

Likewise, God has many things for us to do — but we cannot do them in our own strength. Paul says, in chapter four of this epistle, *".... I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me."* That is one of those verses that is horribly abused. If you think you can do all things by Christ Who strengtheneth you, then go try to swim across the Atlantic Ocean. Before you get started, though, let's say good-bye — because you aren't coming back. We can do all things — all things that God has for us to do *in His will* — by His strength. When we desire to live in the direct will of God, we aren't alone; we have the Holy Spirit Who takes the things of Christ and makes them real to us. Remember, Jesus also said, *"without Me ye can do NOTHING."*

Now, when I wrote this report, I was one very poor person in this world. As a matter of fact, there are very few people – even in the most remote parts of the world like Pakistan, Africa or India – who could understand the extreme level of societally-relative poverty I was living in. My earthly possessions were a few clothing outfits, a twenty-year old vehicle to live in, and the bare bones equipment to write these reports – and that was it. I was eventually invited to live in a little house belonging to my church elders; and the food I ate was also given to me by them. When they didn't feed me – I didn't eat – period. I had no money at all. I did not receive any form of public assistance in any way, shape or form. Occasionally I would receive a donation, but it was less than one thousand dollars each year. That's neither an exaggeration nor an understatement. Now, don't think I am whining or complaining – because I'm not – but I have *NOT* taken some "*oath of poverty*," either – you can forget all that nonsense; what I have taken is an oath to follow Christ with my cross; irrespective of where He leads, or what that means for my life.

Some people said, "*.... Andrew, you need to get a job.*" Well, I made every attempt to do just that. I asked the Lord to provide suitable employment, I completed applications and mailed resumes; I went on myriad interviews, but was passed over every time. When I see rich people in luxury cars and fantastic homes, I'm not going to lie — because I never lie to you readers — I would like to have some of those things again in life, too. Well, God is, obviously, still saying "*no.*" As a result, I consider this so-called safari my business.

You can take my word when I tell you many reading this report would say "*good-bye*" to Jesus if they had to endure what I endured writing the safari; and, frankly, some would have committed suicide. This is reality, friends. I am not asking for sympathy, I never ask for money, and I sure do not beg. If you read this, and you are moved by the Lord to donate to this teaching of the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine, then contact me so I can tell you how to do so. These reports do not write themselves; but the only reason I write them at all is personally for *Y-O-U* – whoever you are who is reading this.

During the years of writing these reports, there were many times I said to myself, “.... *this is the end, Andrew.*” Well, all I can really say for sure is that God has performed His good work in me for His glory thus far; so, I have no reason to believe He is going to let me down now. Now, don’t think I never get discouraged and depressed, and never have black moments of despair and uncertainty, and don’t think there aren’t times I have no joy as a result of doubting that God will continue to hold me — because I do. I thank God He constantly reminds me — in verse six of Philippians — that He is doing His work through me — for Himself. God is working according to His standards, and that is the best way for any of us in this world, because it is *HIS* way.

Remember, when Paul was in Troas, he had no earthly idea which way the Spirit of God was going to lead him. In my life today, the only way I can possibly know which way to go is based on the door that opens — or closes — for me. Of course, most Christians claim to have leading from the Lord. Of course, they can never articulate how God spoke to them. Most self-professing believers insinuate God speaks to them audibly — perhaps in the shower each morning — or giving them a sign in the tea leaves — or a dreamy hallucination in the night — by which God tells them which road to go down at any particular moment; but that’s only because they fancy themselves to be super-duper saints. They imply that God couldn’t live without them here on this earth. I know most of you are so important and deeply involved in the work of the Lord that you are priceless to God; but - I’m not one of you — you can just write that down. If God makes a certain thing possible for me to do, then I do it. If that thing is not made possible by the Lord to do — then I don’t do it. I rarely know His will until the moment He’s ready to move me. The only thing I can truly be confident of is that He which hath begun a good work in me will carry me through until the day of the rapture; and the only way I know that is because it is written in the Word of God.

Our modern age is *NOT* the “*day of the Lord*” the Old Testament prophets spoke of. We do not live in a spiritual Israel; and we are not in the millennium kingdom. We haven’t entered eternity yet, either, by the way; no, we live in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ — but that age is not fully consummated until Christ appears in the air to take His church out of this

world. The Holy Spirit has sealed believers until the day of redemption. Until that day, we can count on the fact that God is going to see us through. Whatever plan and purpose He has for us will be fulfilled in this life. Paul knew what he was talking about — and this is one of the most wonderful things that Andrew C. Hunt knows anything about. I don't know who reads these reports. I don't know anything about your circumstances; but I do know God has brought you forward to this present moment, and He has provided you the opportunity to learn His Word today. May I suggest you take a moment to pray a prayer of thanksgiving praising God that He has not — and never will — let you down. I would love to spend more time here but now we must move along....

***7 Even as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.***

~ Paul had very tender feelings for this church. They were wrapped together in the bundle of life by God. When you and I become partners in taking the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to the entire world, then we are, likewise, all wrapped up in fellowship with each other. There is no better other enterprise we could endeavor in together. God has given me wonderful friends who share these reports; and their work is as important as writing them. They are what I consider *true* friends — and there aren't many of them — but I thank God for them. Others have come and gone; but a few will endure to the end; and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. If you have actually read this far in this report — and if you share these Biblical truths with others — then we shall partake in unimaginable treasures in Heaven together one day, friends. Those of you enabling me to continue taking the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine — and you know who you are — you'll be there, too. It's wonderful to have the sympathetic cooperation of Christian friends who share this seemingly impossible task with me; and it does seem impossible....

***8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.***

~ Verse eight is not a crude remark. That's the way the Bible records it — because that's the way it is intended to be read. It means Paul longed after these people with tender emotions; the same precious and tender feelings the Lord Jesus has for us. This is also very, very good psychology; and most of us need a good and Godly Psychologist. I do. Well, the average person today believes they only do those things that they have thoroughly thought through. Everyone seems to believe they are very smart and intelligent little creatures. Unfortunately, very little of our overall operating process originates in the gray matter found inside our cranium. Information comes into our nervous system — through axons and dendrites — and travel through the synaptic connections from any particular place on our bodies; and on into the brain. For example, when we touch something hot that process takes place in a nanosecond; and then moves over to a motor neuron which tells us to move our hand away from that hot object before we are seriously injured. Most people think all of that happens without thinking — and, actually, that is true — and there was a very real connection made in the brain — but it didn't originate in the brain. That same physiological and psychological outside force is how almost ninety-nine percent of our decisions are made in this life. When you saw that person with whom you first fell in love, you didn't stop to think it over. No, that feeling took place deep down inside — in the bowels — in the guts. In the heart. Most of our life has nothing to do with our mental capacity; it has everything in the world to do with our emotions. That's how Paul loved the church at Philippi....

***9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;***

~ So, as our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, I want to point out that there is an over-abundance of silly and stupid thinking about the word “love.” Most of you know I am very harsh on political leaders and false Bible teachers; and many of you ask me, “... Andrew, didn't Jesus say to love our enemies, and do good to those who hate you?” Well, Jesus also said some very unlovely things to the religious rulers. Jesus told them they were “*of their father the devil, and Satan's works they shall do.*” John the Baptist called his first congregation a “*generation of vipers.*” I just don't see how anyone could speak any harsher

than that. Now, if you say you truly love your enemies, then you're likely one of those super-duper saints we spoke of earlier in this report; and no one believes you – I don't. You should also know that I have difficulty just loving some of my friends. Some of my friends aren't very lovely but they are my friends. I love believers, friends; even though some of them are not easy to love, either.

Paul says to let our love abound in knowledge, and discernment, and *judgment*. Let me say it this way: you better be sure about who you love, friends. Some people I can hug and have true fellowship with as I help them understand the Word of God; but, there are some people that, if I hugged them, and trusted the lies they told me, they would not hesitate to put a knife in my back. My only prayer in this connection is that the Lord will help me discern who I can express love for, and who to stay away from! If our love is not expressed with Scriptural knowledge then we don't love them – because that would be impossible. If you are one of those who run around saying you love everybody then, my friend, you reveal yourself to be a total liar. Most people need to hear that they are a sinner who needs to be saved; and, if we tell people that, they aren't going to think you love them very much – when, in fact, that's the most sincere and pure form of love there is. We need to be extremely careful about this. That's what Paul is saying in verse nine as we discontinue now; and that's where we will pick up in our next report. I hope you will stay with us ~

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