

## **“Five Eternal Perspectives On Earthly Living”**

### **Session I**

Introduction: A Penetrating Question!

A. If someone were to ask you the question, “**What is happening in your life?**”, what would you say?

B. Your answer would be determined by the depth of relationship you have with the person asking the question!

1. In **a casual relationship**, you would probably give a “\_\_\_\_\_” answer.

→ An overview of some of the events of recent days.

a) In your personal life: “This happened to me \_\_\_\_\_!”

b) In your family: “Our family \_\_\_\_\_.”  
“My children \_\_\_\_\_.”

c) In your work: “This is happening at work \_\_\_\_\_.”

d) Your health: “My health is \_\_\_\_\_.”

e) Your free time: “I/we went . . . and did . . . ”

→ Note: In a “casual relationship”, many people don’t really \_\_\_\_\_!

In a “casual relationship”, many people can’t be \_\_\_\_\_!

2. However, with **a trusted friend** you would probably give an “\_\_\_\_\_” answer!

→ The categories might be the same, but the **openness** would be different.

C. **But**, what if the Person asking were **God** Himself, “**What is happening in your life?**”

→ Would you be able to give an accurate answer?

→ Would Your answer come from the same perspective (mainly “\_\_\_\_\_”)?

→ Note: If you give an accurate answer to God, your **perspective** would have to change → from the **earthly** to the \_\_\_\_\_!

D. A vital question for every Believer:

What is our controlling “\_\_\_\_\_” → The “\_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_”?

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2*

E. A Biblical Observation:

“To be spiritually \_\_\_\_\_, we must be \_\_\_\_\_!”

## The First Eternal Perspective

*"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 1:6

### I. God Has Begun a "Good Work" in Every Believer, Phil. 1:6.

#### A. What is the "Good Work" God has Begun?

1. Some people would say that the "good work" refers to the Philippian Church's "participation" in Paul's financial support.

*"But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent . . ." (4:18)*

2. However, careful consideration of Paul's words requires that the "good work" refer the "\_\_\_\_\_ " of "\_\_\_\_\_ " in the Believer in preparation for "\_\_\_\_\_ "!

*"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until (for) the day of Christ." (1:9-10)*

--Paul prays that the Believer's "love" for Jesus Christ and other Believers may be growing ("abounding") in their earthly experience, preparing them for "the day of Christ"!

--This readiness for standing before Jesus Christ is based upon having "real knowledge" and "all discernment" about what will be pleasing to Him at that time → the "Judgment Seat" ("Bema") of Christ! (II Cor. 5:10; I John 2:28)

--Paul shows concern for the Believer's "condition" when he/she stands before Christ → ". . . in order to be sincere and blameless . . ."

3. In Paul's letters to the N.T. churches, the "good work" of God in our lives is the "\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ" → Believer's Justification and Sanctification!

--Paul gives testimony to this "work" of God in His own life:

- a. He was a man who had claimed "righteousness" without Christ, Phil. 3:4-5.

*"If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more . . . as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."*

- b. He was "convicted" by Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus, Acts 9:4-5.

*"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? And He said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' "*

→Note: This is "\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_!"

→This was a God-planned encounter! (So was \_\_\_\_\_!)

- c. He was "called" by God for His future purposes, Acts 9:15-16.

*" . . . he is a chosen instrument (vessel) of mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."*

→This was a God-planned life! (So is \_\_\_\_\_!)

## B. What is the result of that “Good Work” God has begun?

→ **The Believer has a new “\_\_\_\_\_” before God, Phil. 1:1.**

*“Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi . . . grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1. The Believer is a “\_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_” in God’s eyes!

This “holiness” comes by being placed **into** Christ on the basis of “grace”!

*“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Rom. 8:1*

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come . . . He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” II Cor. 5:17, 21*

2. This “\_\_\_\_\_” in Christ is secure and certain because Christ did the work!

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”*

John 10:27-28

--Note: This “\_\_\_\_\_” **IN** Christ needs **NO** “\_\_\_\_\_”!

## II. God Is “Perfecting” that Work in Every Believer, Phil. 1:6.

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

--Note: This is the “key” to the question, “What is happening in my life?”

The only “\_\_\_\_\_” in the Christian life relates to our experience of practical “\_\_\_\_\_”!

### A. What does it mean for the “Work” to be “Perfected”?

1. It refers to the Believer’s “\_\_\_\_\_” in life experience → what God is doing to prepare us to live with Him forever as the “\_\_\_\_\_” of His Son, Jesus Christ!

*“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until (for) the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”*

Philippians 1:9-11

*“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”* Philippians 1:27

2. It refers to the Believer's "Sanctification" or growth in "\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_"! *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:28-29)*

### A Vital "Contrast"

→ The Believer's "\_\_\_\_\_" in Christ: He is our "\_\_\_\_\_"!  
Perfect; Secure; Unchanging!

*"Our Position in Christ needs no Perfecting!"*

Result: We have "Assurance" based on the "finished work" of Christ!  
We have Christ's "righteousness" imputed to us!

→ The Believer's "\_\_\_\_\_" in Life: Our Practical "Sanctification"!  
Imperfect; Failures; Ever Changing!

*"Our Daily Walk in Life Experience needs His Perfecting!"*

Result: "Fellowship" with Christ produces "Christ-likeness"! *"Christ in you, the hope of glory", Col. 1:27.*

## B. Can the "perfecting" work of God be "resisted"?

1. "\_\_\_\_\_", when the Believer does not trust God's promise to bring the "best" in his/her life!

→ The O.T. illustration of Israel's unbelief, Psalm 106:13-15.

*"They quickly forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but craved intensely in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them (leanness into their souls)."*

→ The N.T. illustration of the "Prodigal Son", Luke 15:11-32.

*"... 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them ... and the younger (son) ... squandered his estate ..."*

2. "\_\_\_\_\_", causing the Believer to be "child-trained" by the Heavenly Father.

*"And you have quickly forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.' It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."* Hebrews 12:5-11

## **Helpful Observations** **To Be “Heavenly” Minded**

1. God **has** begun a “good work” in every Believer!  
--That work is to “**Position**” every Believer in Jesus Christ! It is unchangeable!  
*“Christ in you, the hope of glory”, Colossians 1:17.*
  
2. When we walk in “**fellowship**” with Christ, our unchangeable **Position** is “**perfected**” in our earthly experience, by an unconscious process, performed by the Holy Spirit, and we are “**conformed**” to the image of Christ!  
--As the Believer “**beholds**” Christ, a “**transformation**” takes place, II Cor. 3:18.  
*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed from glory to glory just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*
  
3. When we “**grieve**” or “**quench**” the Holy Spirit’s work, the Father undertakes loving “**discipline**” (“**child-training**”) to restore “**fellowship**” and prepare us for eternity!  
--This loss of time could be called “**leanness of soul**” or “**the prodigal delay**”!  
*“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*  
Ephesians 4:30  
*“Do not quench the Spirit.”*  
I Thessalonians 5:19