

THE WEEK AHEAD: Week 1



Paul is confident in *Philippians 1:6* that God will complete the “good work” that he began in the *Philippians*. The studies this week help to explain how we can be confident of our salvation.

Sunday

Read the passage that will be preached at the church service you attend. If English is your second language, read the passage in your own language and also in English.

On the other six days...

Day 1

Re-read ***Philippians 1:1–11*** and think about the answers you gave to the study questions on pages 5–8.

Memorize this week’s memory verse:

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 1:6*

Thank God that he will complete the “good work” that he began in you.

Day 2

Read ***Ephesians 2:8–10***.

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus (see map on page 4 of Study Guide). These verses explain very clearly how we have been saved.

1 According to verse 8, how are we saved?

2 Can we save ourselves? Why or why not? (see verses 8 and 9)

3 What is it that Paul says has no power to save us? (see verse 9)

(Note: He mentions these because it is easy to rely on them rather than God.)

4 Are good works important? (see verse 10)

5 What do we learn about God in verse 10?

Thank God for his gift of grace to you. Pray that God would enable you to have confidence in him and not in your own “works”.

Day 3

Read ***1 John 1:5–10***.

The writer of this letter is John, the disciple Jesus called in *Mark 1:19–20*. He is also the author of the Gospel of John and of Revelation. John wrote this letter in around 90AD.

1 What is “walking in the light”? (see verses 6 and 7)

(Clue: Walking in the light needs the blood of Jesus to make us pure, so it can’t mean “being perfect”.)

2 So, what is “walking in the darkness”? (see verses 5 and 6)

3 Why can't we “claim to be without sin”? (see verses 8 and 10)

4 How can we be certain that confessing sin will result in our forgiveness? (see verse 9)

Spend a few minutes thanking God for the secure faith we have, which is based upon what Jesus has already done for us. Ask God to forgive your sins, confident that he will purify you from ALL unrighteousness.

Day 4

Read **John 6:35–40**.

These verses from the Gospel of John are taken from a discussion the crowd are having with Jesus after the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd demand a miraculous sign like the one Moses gave when he fed the people of Israel with manna in the wilderness.

Jesus reminds them that it was his Father in heaven who fed the people. And in any case, says Jesus, the “true bread” is “he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world”.

In verses 39 and 40, “raise him/them up at the last day” means that Jesus will raise us from death when he returns on the day of judgment.

1 What kind of hunger and thirst is Jesus talking about in verse 35?

2 Look at the promise in verse 37. How can you be sure that you are included in this promise?

3 God's plan for us is clearly given in verses 39 and 40. What is God's part in this plan?

4 What is our part? (see verse 40)

Thank God that he will keep hold of you and that he will not lose you. Pray that you will hunger and thirst for Christ only.

Day 5

Re-read the Bible passages you have read during the past week. Choose a verse that you found particularly helpful, write it down in the space below and memorize it.

Day 6

Read **Philippians 1:12–26** in preparation for **Discipleship Explored**.