

Trusting in God While Suffering
Philippians 1:6-7, Romans 8:28

Roughly 60-70% of adults experience one serious challenge every year. (Financial, Marital, Illness or Work related)

30-40% of any particular congregation are dealing with chronic stress and anxiety that doesn't go away. There isn't a single Christian immune to hopelessness.

- **Matt 7:14** "For the gate is narrow and the way is *hard* that leads to life, and those who find it are few."
- **Luke 9:23** "And He said to all, if anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me."
- **Acts 14:22** "...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Vs. 6

God has given us the "bookends" of history in His word. (Genesis and Revelation). But we don't know how our specific lives will play out. It can be very easy to doubt God because we don't see what He is doing, but we can trust that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

God finishes what He started:

- Creation - Gen 2:1-2
- Christ's mission - John 4:34, 19:30
- The end of time: Rev 21:5-6

Don't fall into the same trap as the Galatians, who started trusting in themselves! (Galatians 3:1-3)

Sanctification: *The process in which God progressively sets us apart from this world and makes us more and more like Him.*

Vs.7

"it is right for me to feel this way about you all." - Based on the Philippians **behavior and obedience** to the word of God, Paul was confident in their salvation. They joined in with him in his suffering as "partakes with him of grace".

Part of how we persevere is by how we view *suffering*. **Anxiety, stress, worry and fear** are trust killers. (Vs. 12-14, 1 Peter 4:16-19)

Romans 8:28

This verse does not mean that God is going to get you out of every consequence of your sin. (Hebrews 12:3-13). Rather, God is using all the factors and situations in your life so that you will ultimately persevere to the end. Eternal thinking helps us to suffer well (Rom 8:18).

Paul fought the good fight (2 Tim 4:6-7) despite all of the trials, sins and suffering. God used Paul's efforts to bring him to the finish line!

Worship: Grace Alone — *The Modern Post*

Satisfied In You (Psalm 42) — *The Sing Team*

His Mercy Is More — *Matt Boswell*

Closing Song: It Is Well — *Various Artists*

Service Times: Sundays: Sunday School 9/Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30p/Men 7p;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

Announcements:

★***WE WILL NOT BE HAVING A WORSHIP SERVICE THIS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH—THANKSGIVING DAY!***

★**CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** Join us NEXT Sunday, November 30th, immediately following the worship service, to decorate the church for Christmas. We would love for everyone to stay to help us with this, as many hands make light work! We will be buying pizza for lunch for anyone who is volunteering to help us decorate. If you are planning on staying to help decorate, please let Kathleen know so that we are sure to get enough pizza for everyone!

★*For all other announcements, please see the November Newsletter!*