

**Friday, June 19, 2020**

**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."**

*Philippians 1: 6*

Have you ever started something, but didn't finish it ... ever. Ever since I was a kid I have had an interest in Martial Arts. I would go to Martial Arts movies with my friend and dream of becoming a great Martial Artist. Eventually I got into Karate. I started, and then I stopped. I started a second time, and then I stopped. I started a third time, and then I stopped again. I never made it to Black Belt. And, at this point in life, I know I never will. Such is life!

It is never hard to START something. The challenge is to keep at it. I've been wondering of late if our nation is on the cusp of being reformed ... and not for the better. Our nation began with at least a respect for God and the idea of having God as the basis for our nation. The Constitution talks about everyone being CREATED equally. That statement presumes the existence of a Creator. But just because our nation began that way doesn't mean it will always be that way. That's just the way it is. Not everything that is begun makes it to completion.

But in our reading above, we are being comforted by the assurance that God will never stop preparing us for heaven. He will never get distracted from YOU! You are His daily focus! He has invested a lot in you. He has given His very own Son as a sacrifice for your sins. God's love for you will never wear out.

I stopped Karate three times for various reasons, but I guess I need to admit that if getting my Black Belt was truly a priority to me, I would have found a way to make that happen. Nothing is more important to God than your salvation. He is laser-focused on your eternity. In fact, He has given You His Holy Spirit to live in Your heart until your very last breath, or until the Last Day, whichever comes first. He's hard at work keeping your faith in Jesus alive and well.

So, no matter what else changes in this life, no matter how many other things are begun, but never finished, ONE THING will be completed: Your place in heaven will be made certain because God will never stop working in your life to keep you close to Him.

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim