

The Doctrine of Completion

I. Introduction & Definition

A. Greek vocabulary

1. ἄριστος ^{#739}: *fitted, complete, perfect*. “special aptitude for given uses.” (Hapax) 2nd Tim. 3:17
2. ἐξαρτίζω ^{#1822}: *to complete, finish, furnish perfectly*. Acts 21:5; 2nd Tim. 3:17
3. καταρτίζω ^{#2675}: *to render fit, sound, complete; to mend, repair; to fit out, equip, put in order*. Used 13x (Matt. 4:21; 21:16; Mk. 1:19; Lk. 6:40; Rom. 9:22; 1st Cor. 1:10; 2nd Cor. 13:11; Gal. 6:1; 1st Thess. 3:10; Heb. 10:5; 11:3; 13:21; 1st Pet. 5:10).
4. κατάρτισις ^{#2676}: *perfection, training, disciplining, instructing*. (Hapax) 2nd Cor. 13:9
5. καταρτισμός ^{#2677}: *complete furnishing, equipping*. (Hapax) Eph. 4:12

B. The principle of completion teaches the plan of God the Father to direct the course of a believer’s life to His intended end, involving especially the believer’s training and equipping.

II. Development & Application

A. The ultimate purpose for all of God’s temporal equipping is for His own eternal glory and praise through the eternal glory and praise of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 21:16; cf. Rom. 11:36; 16:27; Eph. 3:21; Phil. 4:20; 1st Tim. 1:17; 2nd Tim. 4:18; 1st Pet. 4:11; 5:11; 2nd Pet. 3:18; Jude 25; Rev. 1:6; 5:12,13; 7:12).

1. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ have a prepared, equipped, trained, and completed purpose for every age of this κόσμος (Heb. 11:3).
2. God the Father has a prepared, equipped, trained, and completed purpose for the life of every believer (Heb. 10:5).
3. Temporal equipping of believers is designed for the eternal completion of believers (1st Pet. 5:10).
4. Even unbelievers, and their eternal destruction are a part of God’s eternal plan and God’s temporal preparations (Rom. 9:22).

B. A thoroughly furnished local church rejoices in the comfort, like-mindedness, and peace that is produced among them by the God of love and peace (2nd Cor. 13:11).

1. This transpires when the spiritual leaders of the local church sacrifice themselves for the growth of their flock (2nd Cor. 13:9).
2. This transpires when believers strive to remove and repair every schism, and renew their minds through the study of God’s Word (1st Cor. 1:10).
3. Believers within a local church have the privilege and responsibility to restore (mend, complete) their fellow believers who are struggling in their walk (Gal. 6:1). The imagery of the disciples mending their nets fixes this concept in our mind (Matt. 4:21; Mk. 1:19).
4. Believers, as students of the Word of God, are being fully trained to become teachers themselves (Lk. 6:40; cf. Heb. 5:12).
5. Believers who actively function within a local church are being fully equipped to perform the work of service (Eph. 4:12).
6. Fervent, daily prayer is vital for the believer’s completion (1st Thess. 3:10).
7. The diligent study of the Word of God in its whole counsel is vital for the believer’s completion (2nd Tim. 3:17).
8. Every work assignment that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ assign to believers will coincide with perfect equipment to accomplish that mission (Heb. 13:21).