

THE HIGH CALLING

It is not the receiving of a reward just because you *'hung-in-there'* through your Christian life and just made it to heaven and receive the *'crown of life'* by the skin of your teeth! Just being a Christian is not the total sum of obtaining the high calling. It is not being an Archbishop or the Senior Pastor! It is a calling from God to come up higher into the realm of 100% spirit and be conformed to the image of God's son and thus be fashioned for the special task (calling) and there are several 'steps' that will bring an apprehended one to that calling.

THE VERSE - Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Because *'the high calling'* is specific and thus stands alone, there is presented a 'prize' to those (in Him) who attain. Being as it is 'in Christ Jesus', it cannot be obtained outside of Christ, His nature and mind. It is fully promoted by God and it is His desire to have a company of saints achieve this goal. In the plan for a glorious, triumphant and victorious conclusion to God's great plan of salvation — that of restoring all things and people back into Himself, He has ordained that there will come forth 'a Gideon's 300' who can be trusted to be *the first-fruits* moving in His fullness . . . the visible, genuine expression of His invisible Being.

THE PRIZE & CALLING

The 'prize' is being transfigured (Gk. *METAMORPHUSAO*) into the incorruptible, immortal life (1 Cor.15) having been adopted to express the fullness of God in the earth. The calling is God's one and only plan to have a visible expression of Himself in the earth. Thus these first-fruits, fully (100%) equipped with the life of Christ, will move in Father's full nature (Love), His full authority and His full supply . . . to the end that they will set travailing creation free and see the reality manifested of the King of kings ruling and reigning supreme through these ones.

THE DEMANDS OF THE HIGH CALLING

The first step, by the grace of God, is to be enabled to believe that one is (present tense) *seated with Christ* in Father's throne (Eph.2:6). The only seat in the Holy of Holies of Moses Tabernacle is the 'Mercy Seat' which equates with God's throne.

This calling is above any other calling for it is **THE** High Calling of God. Next, it is a new realm of thinking (v.15) completely different from how we have thought in times past. It is needful that our present thinking is 'arrested' (apprehended) so that we become *a prisoner of our Lord Jesus Christ*. As His prisoner, one's own thinking is totally excluded. It is a supernatural calling out of a love relationship with our Father.

CONTEXT surrounding this phrase

THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD

Phil 3:10-15. *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his*

sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (11) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead (to experience it fully). (12) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do (shows singleness of focus!), forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (15) Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. ‘I press’ followed by ‘Let us’ . . . **Those individually dealt with by the Lord will become a company of apprehended sons.**

MEANING OF WORDS ETC.

Press; Gk. *DIOKO* = pursue; follow after; press toward. To be able to press, there must needs be an opposing force.

Mark; Gk. *SKOPOS* = to peer about; watch like a sentry; a goal or mark. This speaks of vision . . . a specific ‘mark’ on one’s horizon upon which, like a plowman, one’s eyes do wander from it. It is clearly seen when God has apprehended you for the high calling!

for = towards ... it is a progressive walk experiencing things that are new, for the ‘old’ have been left behind.

Prize; Gk. *BRABEION* = from a root word meaning umpire that awards the prize in a public game. A prize is awarded for achieving one’s vision given by God. Christ is now that ‘Umpire’ having completed and won the race achieving ‘throne status’ . . . showing us the way.

High calling; Gk.= the upward calling; the calling that is above;

Looking at the context and verse shows that Christ has already run this race and won the prize. We are chosen to share in this victory of achievement and sit with Him **experientially** in Father’s throne. He has provided such a position for all, but those who experience the provision of *being seated with Him in heavenly place far ABOVE* (Now that’s high!) all hindrances having been overcome.

REQUIRES A ‘PRESSING’

There is a seeking and there is a pressing towards . . . Colossians 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* Experiencing the resurrection-life of Christ is a stepping-stone to the throne (Christ sits thereon in the Father) and these overcomers in Him.

The ‘seeking’ out of one’s personal vision from God is necessary so that one knows in which direction to press. A complete surrender . . . ‘Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!’ . . . ‘Lord, I want to know what you want me to become?’ . . . ‘Lord, what will You have me to do me to do?’ . . . ‘Lord., where do You want me to be?’ Such a genuine complete surrender to God comes forth from a love-relationship with Him Whose unconditional love keeps on drawing the hungry (and teachable) one.

The ‘pressing’ requires staying fully focused and being constantly alert to anything or anyone opposing one’s efforts in obtaining the prize. Pressing against something that is not there, could result in an apprehended one falling flat on their face! One is therefore encouraged to press hard against doubting the vision, fear of failure (inward despondency), sideways comparisons etc. If there is no need to press

against the negative in one's life, then check up the direction you are facing!

MELCHISEDEC KING-PRIEST

This now brings the Melchisedec Priesthood into the picture — for Melchisedec is a 'King-Priest' and the priest to the Most High God (El Elyon) and King of Peace (Salem) (Gen. 14:18 and 1 Peter 2:9).

Hebrews 6:20 *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

Hebrews 2:10 *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect (Gk. = complete) through sufferings.*

Philipp. 3:10 *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;* — the 'flesh' will have suffered loss in these many sons which do not include all of God's children.

Hebrews 3:1 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus ...* Consider again Who God is and who you are in Him. Believe what God has said! No false humility! Remember *you are dead and your life is hid in Christ.*

A NEW MINDSET

Be thus minded (v.15). This new thinking comes directly from the Indwelling Spirit of God and, because this is a progressive unveiling from the mind of Christ, He is responsible for keeping one up-to-date and remaining focused. Verse 13 instructs one to forget majoring on the natural experiences and let go of what you have seen and look for what has been unseen, which we are told in (2 Cor.4:18) is spiritual and eternal. The purpose which can not fail is that *every eye shall see Him* in every aspect of life.

THE 'HIGH-CALLING' COMPANY

Right now this corporate body of sons is called (apprehended) to many 'training camp' experiences where each learns to move only from the mind of Christ within . . . laying zero importance to things in the past and concentrating fully on things that 'are'. If one does look ahead, be certain it is in the direction of the throne — the focal point of God's sovereignty and purpose. '*Many sons*' are brought to this place says Heb. 2:14, so we can readily see this 'first-fruits' calling is not for all! However, it is for those *who have ears to hear!* §