



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

Seeking Greater Things — The Upward Call

What is Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God?

Text: Philippians 3:8-4:1

Key Text: *Philippians 3:14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

- I. Pressing toward the upward call is shunning the old way of life (3:8).
 - A. Paul had prestige and power in his former life (Galatians 1:13-15).
 - B. Consider all that he left (From Robert Taylor):
 1. Pay for poverty.
 2. Security for suffering.
 3. Popularity for persecution.
 4. Applause for adversity.
 5. Worldly acclaim for apostolic ostracism.
 - C. Paul goes from what was worthless to what was invaluable.

- II. Pressing toward the upward call is seeking the righteousness of God (3:9).
 - A. If anyone could have righteousness law-keeping, it would be Paul (Acts 22:1-3).

- B. It is not enough to quit doing wrong, one must also start doing right.
 - C. Notice, the two parts to God's righteousness:
 - 1. Righteousness from God.
 - 2. Faith from the one seeking God's righteousness.
- III. Pressing toward the upward call is searching for the positive resurrection (3:10-11).
- A. Paul wanted to know Christ.
 - B. Paul wanted to know the power of His resurrection.
 - C. Paul wanted to suffer like Christ had to suffer.
 - D. Paul wanted to die for the cause of Christ.
 - E. All people will know the power of the resurrection of Christ one day (Hebrews 9:27).
- IV. Pressing toward the upward call is surely growing in Christ (3:12-16).
- A. The goal is growth, not attainment.
 - B. Forget the past.
 - C. Reach for the future — the spiritual future.
 - D. We are all in this together.
- V. Pressing toward the upward call is setting an example for others to follow (3:17-4:1).
- A. Follow after Paul (Galatians 4:12).
 - B. Many walk (live) opposed to the cross of Christ.
 - C. A Christian has citizenship in Heaven.
 - D. The best is yet to come.
 - E. Therefore, stand fast in the Lord.

Are you pressing toward the upward call of God?