



I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

I want to live above the world, Though Satan's darts at me are hurled; For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height And catch a gleam of glory bright; But still I'll pray, 'til heaven I've found "Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

IN CHRIST: Knowing Christ

Pt. 1

Ephesians 1:10; Phil. 3:10-21

- 1. Phil. 3:8--Now for Paul, the only thing that really mattered, that had any lasting value was the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ, of having been brought into an intimate "knowing" relationship with God through Him.
 - --Yes, this put everything he had before in the loss column, but that was ok because now he realized they were just refuse anyway.
 - --Without those distractions and mis-adventures, he can put all his time and effort into taking hold of the priceless prize of the Person of Christ—gaining and exploiting all the riches of God that he has in Christ, bringing every last one of them into his experience and walk, enjoying God and sharing with others selflessly in Love.

- 2. Phil. 3:9--Being found in Christ rules out all law systems as a means of approach to God and places us into a Grace System whereby we don't attain righteousness before God based on who we are and what we do but based on who Christ is and what He did for us (faith of Christ), which we receive and participate in by faith (our believing).
 - a. Rather than producing man's righteousness by works through the flesh before God ...
 - b. God brings us into His Own Righteousness freely by grace through His Son by believing (2 Cor. 5:21).
 - c. We have a complete and perfect right standing before God and He has already given us all the blessings He is giving in and through Christ so it is foolish to work to gain and earn more!

3. Phil 3:10-14--What was required for Paul to "know" Christ? Not just know about but to know intimately in his experience. What's involved in organizing the entirety of our existence around Christ as the primary goal (Phil. 3:10-21)?

NOW: FULLNESS ON EARTH (Phil. 3:9-16):

- a. Knowing the POWER of His resurrection.
- b. Fellowshipping in His sufferings
- c. Being made conformable to His death.

FUTURE: FULLNESS IN HEAVENLIES (Phil. 3:17-21):

d. Obtaining the goal of all this—in the hope that at the FINAL resurrection all will be fully realized and fulfilled as heavenly citizens in the presence of Christ forevermore.

- 3. Paul wants to know Christ in these ways as completely as possible. He wants to bring everything that is true of him positionally in Christ to be brought into his experience.
 - a. He knows this won't actually happen perfectly and completely until he receives his glorified resurrection body like unto Christ's (Phil. 3:11-14, 20-21).
 - b. But he doesn't let that detract him. He strives, reaching for it, living every moment centered on Christ, as though he could.
 - c. Every morning he wakes up desiring to empty God's bank account, sharing His riches with others in wild, no, holy abandon.

- 4. How does this work? We don't have to guess. Paul has already told us earlier in Philippians.
 - --Paul learned that the **power of Christ's resurrection** life within strengthens and empowers him to serve God in the midst of adversity, which leads to suffering for Christ's sake (**Fellowship in His sufferings**) as we proclaim God's truth in Love unto others edification, having the mindset of Christ (**Conformed to His death**).

- 5. We see this repeatedly in Philippians.
 - Phil. 1: Not us and our things but God and His things:
 - a. Having the mindset of Christ in growing Love (Phil. 1:9), thereby being conformed unto His death, Paul had Christ's living in and through him (Gal. 2:20), releasing the:
 - b. Power of His Resurrection Life, which strengthened and empowered him to remain steadfast in the midst of adversity, boldly proclaiming PGMT (Phil. 1:3-7, 27-28), which led to the:
 - c. Fellowship of His Sufferings—(Phil. 1:12-13, 29-30), suffering persecution even unto death, bringing us back to being:
 - d. Conformed to His death--(Phil. 1:20-26; 2 Cor. 11:23-33)

Phil. 2: Not us and our things but others and their things unto edification.

- --Conformed to His death: Christ's service unto death in Love is the mindset we should have, not using our things for our own advancement but for the advancement of others, even unto death (2:1-8).
- --The Power of Resurrection: God empowering them, working in and through them (2:12-13). His certain future resurrection changed his perspective on present sufferings.
- --Fellowshipping in His Sufferings: As they proclaim PGMT, shining as lights, holding forth God's Word for today in a crooked and a perverse world unto persecution (2:14-18).
- --Examples of Paul, Timothy, the Philippians, Epaphroditus (who was near unto death literally!), serving in Love.

Phil. 3: Not us and our things but Christ and His things:

Throw everything else away and rely solely on Christ for our right relationship with God and service for God.

CENTER EVERYTHING ON CHRIST, OUR ALL-IN-ALL

Heaven Came Down

O what a wonderful, wonderful day Day I will never forget; After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Savior I met. O what a tender Compassionate friend – He met the need of my heart; Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart!

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul,
When at the cross the Savior made me whole;
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my Soul!

Heaven Came Down

Born of the Spirit with life from above Into God's family diving, Justified fully through Calvary's love, O what a standing is mine! And the transaction so quickly was made When as a sinner I came, Took of the offer of grace he did proffer-He save me, O praise His dear name!

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul,
When at the cross the Savior made me whole;
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my Soul!

Heaven Came Down

Now I've a Hope that will surely endure After the passing of time; I have a future in heaven for sure, There in those mansions sublime. And it's because of that wonderful day When at the cross I believed; Riches eternal and blessings supernal From His precious hand I received.

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul,
When at the cross the Savior made me whole;
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my Soul!