

18 Philippians 3:14-15

The High Calling of God

1. Phil 3:15

- a. *"therefore"* – refers back to what we have already learned
- b. *"as many as be perfect"* – He wasn't in 3:12 referring to still being in the flesh
- c. Perfect means complete, filled up, fully equipped, whole, mature – see 2Ti 3:17
- d. Perfect, will of God is the one that concerns your whole life - Rom 12:2
- e. *"them that are perfect"* – those that have the mind of Christ – 1 Cor 2:6, 15-16
- f. Paul is not talking to babies in Philippians – 1 Cor 3:1, 14:20

2. Phil 3:14

- a. *"I press toward the mark"* – The one thing Paul. It is a race – 2 Tim 4:6-8
- b. Pressing requires doing some thing, not sitting idly and waiting for it to happen.
- c. Paul runs that he may obtain, and so should we – 1 Cor 9:24, also Heb 12:1-2
- d. You cannot start any good work too soon. Set goals; take steps to achieve them.
- e. The mark = the prize = resurrected glory -Phil 1:11, 21, eternal life now – 1Ti 6:12,19

3. High Calling of God

- a. *"high calling"* – People say they are called, and what follows is an earthly vocation
- b. Spiritual gift & calling is not found by listing what you like to do and are good at.
- c. The parable of the talents (Matt 25) is not about a perfect plan, or a special skills
- d. Jer 29:11 is about Israel and not talking about anyone in the past 2000 years.
- e. God never calls anyone to work at McDonalds, but they do anyway ... Eph 4:1
- f. Your own ambitions can distract you from your calling and identity in Christ.
- g. Be not unwise – Paul says 'be perfect', 'be men' – know God's will – Eph 5:17
- h. Stop searching for God's will, it is known → 1 Tim 2:4, 1 Thess 5:18, 2 Cor 5:15
- i. *"Calling"* – a summons, invitation, vocation, profession, purpose, duty
- j. *"high calling of God"* – God's calling for you is *His*, not *Yours* – Eph 1:18
- k. God's calling is eternal holy to salvation in heaven - Eph 2:6, Phil 3:20, 2 Tim 1:9
- l. For some this is a disappointment, for others a relief – the difference is perspective
- m. Carnal Corinthians knew their calling, and there were not many noble - 1 Cor 1:26
- n. Our calling is here 1 Cor 1:2, 9, 23; Titus 2:11-13, Col 3:15

4. Phil 3:15

- a. *"if in any thing ye be otherwise minded"* - your mind is on earthly things – 3:19-20
- b. God wants you to know how to possess your vessel – 1 Thess 4:1-7
- c. When you do this you will be prepared for the master's use – 2 Tim 2:21
- d. *"God shall reveal even this unto you"* – How does he do this? Start here – 2 Tim 3:16
- e. If you press toward the mark and continue in the right direction you will grow
- f. You cannot serve two masters - Matt 6:24, will it be you Prov 18:2, Ps 10:3, or God?
- g. What do you seek? – is it yours or Christ's - 1 Cor 14:12, Col 3:1
- h. Change your affections and know God's will – Eph 5:17