

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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THE COMPLEMENT OF THE ONE #1

And subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all (filled by him who fills the entire universe). (Ephesians 1.22-23 CV [JMT])

God's purpose of the eons is to lead all mankind and all creation into His **all** so that He may be **all in all** (1 Corinthians 15.28). I devoted a whole chapter to this subject in my book, *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, and I have written an eight-part series of *The Upward Call* that will come out soon. God being **all in all** is best described as the restoration and the reconciliation of all things or of the whole creation. In the fullness of times, also called the consummation of the eons, Christ will deliver up the kingdom to the God and Father, so that God may be all in all. In that day, all things will be new. **Behold, I am making all new!** (Revelation 21.5). Some call this endpoint Creation's Jubilee. Can you imagine anything greater? This is God's purpose. Glory to God!

Once we are clear on God's purpose to become **all in all** in His whole creation, we then can see that God has established a plan to achieve this purpose and all the details of His plan are working toward this purpose. The purpose is the goal, and the plan is a multi-faceted, and often complex, scheme (actions, arrangements) to accomplish this purpose. We could say that, to achieve His purpose, God has put into motion an almost unbelievable project that transcends the mind of man. The best script writer in Hollywood or the most gifted novelist could never have written such a plan. Who could even fully sum up His plan? After all, His plan involves many nations and billions of lives, each with their own history with God, not to speak of all in the heavens that we know so little about. Let us not lose sight of the fact that our Lord is on a mission to head up or sum all things in the heavens and on the earth, and He will absolutely accomplish this mission to the glory of God.

Now, here is the good news for those who know, trust, obey, and love the Lord Jesus; He is not going to bring about God's purpose alone. God's plan is that His Son will have a complement or, if you prefer, a helpmate to bring about His purpose in the oncoming eon and beyond. This is the revelation of the secret of God that was given to Paul the apostle.

The key to the above verses is that Christ is the Head over all, which means that nothing is left out. Simply, His Headship encompasses everything. God subjects all under the feet of Christ, making Him Head over all. In other words, He is the universal Head over all, who fills the entire universe.

Then, in the capacity of Head over all, God gives Christ to the ecclesia, which is His body. Do not miss the glory of this secret hidden from the generations and the eons. God has chosen a *called-out* people to be given to the One who is the Head over the universe. They have been joined with the One who is now seated at the right hand of God the Father among the celestials. As far as we can discern, no one in all God's creation has been given such a high and glorious privilege as that given to the ecclesia, which is Christ's body.

Some translations of these verses place all the emphasis of Christ's Headship on the ecclesia (i.e.; "church"), which greatly diminishes His Headship over the entire universe. They make it appear that Christ was simply made head over the "church," or that He was made head for the good of the "church," or that He was made head over all the "church." Although these are truths, they nevertheless miss the mark of the universality of Christ's Headship and actually diminish the on-high, celestial calling of the ecclesia, which is His body. The ecclesia has been raised up and seated with the Head of the universe, which places the ecclesia over all the universe with Christ; and in this

capacity of Head and body, Christ will sum up all things in heaven and on earth. Christ has not come down to be the Head of the ecclesia. He has raised up His body to be among the celestials, joined with Him as Head over all. This is an amazing destiny for all who are called and chosen.

The greatness of Christ and His body is seen in Paul's declaration that the body is also His complement. *Complement* refers to something that fills completely. It is not merely a partial filling but a complete filling. In other words, the body is to be full of Christ and to be so full that it is the very image of Christ, just as Christ is the image of God. He fills His body with His very Life—His resurrection and conquering life. The ecclesia, which is the body, is the complement of the One who will fill the entire universe with Himself until He is **all in all** in all God's creation.

But there is more, for *complement* also means *fulfillment*. The word *fulfill* means "to carry out (something promised, desired, expected, predicted); cause to be or happen," "to fill the requirements of; satisfy a condition; answer a purpose," "to bring to an end; complete."

Do you realize that the body is to bring fulfillment to Christ as well? In other words, the Son needs His body in order for Him to be complete so that He can bring about the purpose and plan of God. Just as the first Adam needed a helpmate to join him in having dominion over the earth, so must the last Adam have a helpmate to have dominion, not only over all the earth but over all creation. Adam was not complete without Eve, and Christ is not complete without His body. The ecclesia, which is the body of Christ, is intimately joined with Christ, the Head, and without this joining together, Christ will not be complete and God's purpose will not be accomplished. The Son of God needs His body in order to head up all things in heaven and on earth.

Take a moment to reflect on this truth. It is almost beyond comprehension for those who have been given to Christ, the Head over all.

Paul added to this glorious truth in his epistle to the Colossians: **And He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, Who is Sovereign, Firstborn from among the dead, that in all He may be becoming first, for in Him the entire complement delights to dwell** (Colossians 1.18-19 CV).

He is the Head of the body, the ecclesia, which is joined with the One who is Sovereign. Think about it; if you are a member of the body of Christ, you are joined to the Sovereign of the universe, the One who is over all, in all, before all, and who holds all together. Not only this, but you are joined with the One who is beyond death, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **who alone has immortality** (1 Timothy 6.15-16). He has conquered death, the very enemy of mankind. He is the Firstborn of the dead; and because of His glorious victory, His body will rise up from among the dead, conquering death in His life. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Now, some who know something of the whole realm of Christ and His "church" might protest that God's purpose is all about Christ's love for His body and Him having a glorious bride without spot or wrinkle. This is true; but do you think that the whole love story ends with Christ and His "church" or, as many express it, Christ and His bride? Over a twenty-year period, I cut my teeth, so to speak, on teaching about Christ and His "church." It was tremendous as far as it went, but I have come to see that it fell short of the full love story of God for mankind. Christ and His ecclesia is a glorious thing. After all, the multifarious wisdom of God is now being made known through the ecclesia to the rulers and the authorities among the celestials. This is in accord with the purpose of the eons (see Ephesians 3.10-11 CV). But notice that this is in accord with the purpose; it is not the purpose and, as such, it is not a means unto its own end. "Christ and His ecclesia" is part of the grand plan of God. Granted, it is the major part of it, but it is not all that there is to God's purpose.

Perhaps, a better way to look at it is from the perspective of a husband and a wife who bring forth offspring out of their love for one another. This is the same picture we should get with Christ and His body. Together, they are to bring forth offspring. In this case, I submit that the offspring that will come forth through the Lamb and His bride is the rest of mankind. His complement is destined to bring the rest (all) of mankind into the all of God through the very life of the Son of God.

Let us rejoice in God's plan!