

# 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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## ***Only One Blood Type Counts***

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Undoubtedly, when most people hear the word *Jew*, they think of a people that have a clean bloodline back to Jacob and his twelve sons who made up the tribes of Israel. The distinction is necessary because Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, and Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob, that were in conflict with each other and, prophetically speaking, are part of Zionism. As pointed out in previous issues, the word *Jew* or *Judahite*, in the purest sense, refers to one descended from Judah, the fourth son of Jacob. However, today, the modern Jew has come to mean much more than this. Also, as shown in previous issues, due to intermarriage and racial conversions to Judaism, it is hard to imagine anyone coming from a clean bloodline back to Jacob. Interestingly, the one meaning of the word *Jew* that is the most accurate, for it is how God defines a Jew, is the least recognized and acknowledged in our day.

**(28) For the true Jew is not the man who is simply a Jew outwardly [by appearance, apparent Jew], and true circumcision is not that which is outward and bodily. (29) But the true Jew is one inwardly, and true circumcision is heart-circumcision—not literal, but spiritual....** (Romans 2:28-29 WNT)

The ones meeting this definition today are the true Christians; they are the Jews as defined by Paul.

Now, when it comes to being *in* Christ, there is no advantage according to man's blood; that is, there is no genealogical advantage. **Born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God** (John 1:13). The only blood that counts is the blood of God.

It is true that, in reference to the Jew by blood or according to flesh, Paul asked the question: **Then what advantage has the Jew?** He then answered: **Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God** (Romans 3:1-2). Earlier, Paul wrote: **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek** (Romans 1:16 NASB).

So, the advantage to the Jew was that they received the gospel first as given through the prophets and the Law. **“For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John”** (Matthew 11:13 NASB). However, this is where the advantage ends, for all must come into Christ through faith. Speaking in reference to the ancient Israelites, Paul quoted Isaiah.

**(16) But not all obeyed [heed] the gospel [good news], for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” Isa. 53:1 (17) Then faith is of hearing, and hearing through the Word of God [word of Christ].** (Romans 10:16-17 LITV [NASB])

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ. Had the ancient sons of Israel received the good news through the prophets? Most definitely! Isaiah himself posed the question of the Israelites hearing what the prophets had reported. **Who has believed our report?** The report is called the Word of God or the Word of Christ.

Faith starts with hearing the good news as presented throughout Scripture, both old and new. The prophets of Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) presented the good news of Christ in types and shadows, a point made by the author of the Hebrews epistle. Personally, I believe Paul is the best candidate for authorship of Hebrews, for the tenor of the book follows much of his teaching.

**(1) In many parts, and many ways, God of old having spoken to the fathers in the prophets, (2) in these last days did speak to us in [a] Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He did make the ages [aion or eon; not world]....** (Hebrews 1:1-2 YLT)

God has spoken since the beginning in many parts and in many ways, but in these last days, the days in which we live, He speaks to us in His Son, no longer in mystery. Actually, the literal translation is that He speaks *in* Son. Not only is the good news about the Son of God, but it is also about bringing **many sons unto glory** (Hebrews 2:10). It is about *in* Son, which speaks of **sonship**. The purpose of the ages is to bring forth many sons of God so that God the Father, ultimately, may become **all in all new** at the consummation of the eons [ages] (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:7).

The point is that the Jew according to flesh was given an advantage but not a special privilege over the rest of mankind due to their blood that could be traced back to Jacob. Faith is what has always been required from the beginning, starting with Adam. The problem with most of the ancient Jews was that they did not hear what the prophets had spoken and did not obey when they did hear. Instead, they developed a religion called **Judaism** that relied on works for their justification and not on faith. They created their own traditions apart from the **Torah** that they call the **Talmud**, something that Jesus condemned because they ignore the commandments (Law) for the sake of their own traditions, called **the tradition of men** (Mark 7:8). This was a major problem for the embryonic ecclesia from Pentecost to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD; however, it has resurfaced in our day as well.

To those in the ecclesias in Galatia who were being persuaded by the Judaizers, Paul inquired: **This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?** (Galatians 3:2 NASB).

Unfortunately, the ecclesia of Christ in our day has fallen into the same trap, as some have embraced modern Zionism and many others have ignored the commandments [law] and developed their own tradition of men. If you don't believe this is true, then visit most any Christian bookstore in America and you will see thousands of books that are not much different than the Talmud.

Regardless of background, pedigree, genealogy, culture, race, or whatever designation one might apply, all of us born into the race of the first Adam must receive the Spirit of God by hearing with faith in order to be born from above into the new race of the Last Adam, the Second Man. The barrier of the dividing wall between the ancient commonwealth [nation] of Israel and the rest of the nations of the earth has been broken down, and a new race has been birthed called **the one new man in Christ** (Ephesians 2:14-15). All have been brought near by the blood of Christ. To drive the point even further, Paul reminds us that all distinctions among mankind break down in Christ, who is all, and in all.

**Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.** (Colossians 3:11 KJV)

Weymouth took some liberties in his translation; nevertheless, the point is made clear.

**In that new creation there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free man, but Christ is everything and is in all of us.** (Colossians 3:11 WNT)

God is after a new creation that is in the image of His Son, where everything of the new creation manifests the life and character of the Son.

In closing, there is one more proof that genealogy or bloodline has no advantage. Jesus' genealogical line was not purebred either, for intermarriage occurred between His line and the nations. For example, Ruth the Moabitess married Boaz from the tribe of Judah, which led to the line of David (Ruth 4:18-22). Boaz himself came forth from his father Salmon's intermarriage with Rahab, generally regarded as Rahab the harlot of Jericho (Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25). It is thought that Salmon was one of the two young men sent to spy on Jericho that Rahab saved from the king of Jericho by hiding them under stalks of flax on her roof (Joshua 2). The fact of the matter is that the genealogy of Jesus includes four foreign women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.

Thus, we could say that, from a genealogical standpoint, there was no purity in Jesus' natural line. It is obvious that God purposed it this way to dispel all notions that the blood of man has an advantage or special privilege in His sight—**but of God**. The only blood type that is pure and that counts before God is His own blood (Acts 20:28), the blood of Christ. All **have been brought near by the blood of Christ** (Ephesians 2:13), and all are reconciled **through the blood of His cross** (Colossians 1:20).