

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)

TUC #08-1405

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 12, 2014

The Day of Salvation

Since the end of 2013, it seems the Lord has impressed on my heart a general theme that, in spite of what is coming or, perhaps, because of what is coming, we need to rejoice. He is after our hearts, and He is going to get them, for God is love and love never fails; therefore, God does not fail at anything He has set His heart to do. Another way to state this is that His plan to achieve His ultimate purpose of *all in all* (1 Corinthians 15:28) is as sure as is His immeasurable, enduring, infinite love.

With this in mind, at 4:34 am, on December 22, 2013, I heard: ***This is the day of salvation; rejoice and be glad in it.*** I believe this is a **second word for 2014** as well.

As we see the structures of man, including the church that man has been building, continue to crumble, we are to be ever reminded that this is the day of salvation, for Christ's death and resurrection has won for all mankind that which mankind could not do on its own. Jesus has won our salvation, for He is the Savior of the world. **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men**; therefore, we are **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed** (Titus 2:11, 13). **Jesus Christ the righteous ... is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world** (1 John 2:1-2). Today, we are called to **fix our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially** (but not exclusively) **of believers** (1 Timothy 4:10). These verses and many more should lead us to rejoice and be glad in the salvation of God through His Son, the Lord Jesus. This is the day of salvation, not only for us who now believe but for all of mankind that are yet to believe. What a glorious gospel!

Now, *this is the day of salvation; rejoice and be glad in it* is clearly presented in scripture, for it is discovered in several places. The first place to start, and the one in which I started, is with Paul the apostle of the nations who was given revelation of the mystery of the good news or the mystery of Christ.

(1) But working together, we also call on you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2) For He says, "In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! Isa. 49:8 (2 Corinthians 6:1-2 LITV)

When the Lord Jesus broke into his life on the road to Damascus, Paul went into seclusion for an interval of 14 years (Galatians 2:1). However, this seclusion was of great value to Paul, for it is obvious that he spent his time searching the scriptures according to Moses and all the prophets and the psalmists. We can only imagine what went on in Paul's heart and mind as the Spirit of God unveiled the truth that had been hidden in shadows and types but was now manifested and revealed in the Anointed One (Messiah), God's Son. He consulted no one during this period so that what he saw and began to preach was not according to the tradition or influence of men. **Those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me** (Galatians 2:6).

Given this, when Paul wrote this encouraging word to the Corinthians, he quoted from Isaiah and, in so doing, confirmed that a day of salvation as spoken by the Lord to the ancient prophet had arrived, only it was not just a day of salvation, it was *the* day of salvation. This is the day to which all the prophets had pointed.

(8) Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the land, to make them inherit the

desolate heritages; (9) saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture will be on all bare heights. (Isaiah 49:8-9 NASB)

Jesus set the captives free by unbinding them and delivering them out of darkness. On his first missionary journey, Paul again quoted the same chapter in Isaiah: **For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have set You for a Light of nations, that You be for salvation to the end of the earth."** Isa. 49:6 (Acts 13:47 LITV). When **the nations (aka gentiles) heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord** (Acts 13:48). Surely, Paul's heart was one with David's heart, the author of the 22nd psalm.

(27) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. (28) For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. (30) Posterity will serve Him; it will be told of the Lord to the coming generation. (31) They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it. (Psalm 22:27-31 NASB)

Dear people of God, this is a psalm of the restoration of all. Take note of the phrases *all the ends of the earth* and *all the families of the nations*. These are inclusive statements of fact. Even those who cannot save themselves and die will one day be prosperous and worship on earth. How will this come about? It will come through resurrection, for the Savior of the world is also the Resurrection and the Life. Again, what a glorious gospel! But, there is more, for Isaiah gives us more encouragement about the day of salvation.

(6) The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. (7) And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 25:6-8 NASB)

(5) Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it, (6) "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, (7) to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. (8) "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. (9) "Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you." (Isaiah 42:5-9 NASB)

(1) Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; for although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. (2) "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation." (3) Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation. (4) And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." (5) Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; let this be known throughout the earth. (6) Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:1-6 NASB)

The year 2014 is a declaration from God that this is the day of salvation. It is the day to draw from the springs of salvation. It is the day to be a light to the nations. It is the day to wait for the Lord to come to bring us who believe into our full salvation in Christ, full of the Spirit, full of Christ – fully glorified, fully spiritual, fully heavenly, and fully immortal. We wait eagerly for the coming of the Lord Jesus with great hope and expectation. He has saved us, He is saving us, and He will save us; and not only us but all of mankind, not all at the same time but all eventually. **This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it** (Psalm 118:24). **Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation**" (Isaiah 25:9). Let us wait expectantly; it won't be long, **for He who is coming will come, and will not delay** (Hebrews 10:37). Come, Lord Jesus! Until then, rejoice and be glad!