

# 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 #10-1612

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September 26, 2016

## ***What the Gospel Is***

For some time now I have been asking the Lord, first, if He wants me to continue writing and, second, if so, then to give me what He wants me to write about. There are far too many voices in the world today, even in what we could call the Christian world that, by the way, seems to be shrinking along with its influence on and in the world. Nevertheless, believers in the Lord Jesus have a plethora of materials offering a plethora of doctrines, creeds, schools of thought, systematic theologies, interpretations, opinions, theories, prophecies, and, unfortunately, denominational and ministerial propaganda (to name a few categories) to turn to as posted on the Internet. There is no lack of material designed to persuade one's thinking into a certain camp or school of thought. This is not to imply that much of this is being done with vicious motives; most are well-meaning and convinced it is from God, even if it conflicts with others. Personally, I am tired of all of it and feel outside most of it, as well, as if an observer; so here I am, writing. There is only one school of thought that matters and it isn't even a doctrine; it is the Person of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us: **Let us go out to Jesus outside the camp, bearing His reproach, for we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come** (Hebrews 13.13-14).

This leads to a dream I had on May 9, 2016. A man handed me a piece of lined paper and said: "Write." I asked: "Write what?" And the man responded: "What the gospel is." Take note that this was not posed as a question but as a charge, as if I know the gospel, I just need to write it up. Strangely, in a variety of ways, I have already done this many times over in all that I have written and posted. So, what is this gospel that I am to write about? Before getting into this, you are encouraged to read the last issue of *The Upward Call*, for this explains a vital aspect of the good news that won't be repeated here. See <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc663.pdf>

The good news is that God has a New Man who is the Pattern of an entirely New Race, a New Mankind, a New Humanity that everyone born on the earth from the beginning of the ages as we know them to the end of the ages as we only see dimly, will, by the consummation of the ages, be conformed and transfigured into the image of the Pattern. See *Love of the Pattern Son*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc653.pdf>

According to *Webster's New World Dictionary* (1966), a *pattern* is: 1. a person or thing so ideal as to be worthy of imitation or copying; 2. a model, guide, plan, etc. used in making things; 3. something representing a class or type.

Jesus is the Pattern. He is the Ideal Man worthy to be imitated or copied. He is the model and plan for the making of all things new, especially the making of an entirely new class or type of people. He is the mold into which God will pour all of mankind to form a New Creation Man *in* Christ (the Anointed One).

Dear people of God, there are many ways to describe and explain the gospel, but this is the highest and most glorious order of what the gospel is. God's plan from before the disruption of the world, a plan that has been hidden in His heart from day one, is to have a race of people patterned after His Son, a race of sons; and He will have such a people, all to His glory and the glory of His Son. God does not and cannot fail! His will, shall be done. Nothing can nor will thwart the will of God.

Before creation itself, God planned to establish a first order of man based on the first Adam that would be replaced with a second order of man based on the last Adam or the Second Man. At the outset, God established His law of the second order: **He takes away the first in order to establish the second** (Hebrews 10.9).

The first Adam was not created to be God's final product. Adam's race was not a failure on God's part; it was simply the starting point of an ages-long plan to bring forth the perfect Man, the Man after God's own heart, a Divine Man that could and would share in His glory.

Consider the genesis of this New Man. He is called *Emmanuel*, meaning **God is with us** (Matthew 1.23). **Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross** (Philippians 2:5-8 ASV). His death is a vital part of the gospel, but this was merely the pathway to life, the New Creation Life, for this is the endpoint to which God is driving. Today, Christ is the life-giving Spirit, the spiritual man from heaven.

At the heart of the gospel is the coming into the world of the Only Begotten Son of God, named *Jesus* and *Emmanuel*, who is also the Son of Mankind, to manifest to mankind the type of man that God is after and will have. Jesus came as the Divine Pattern and Prototype of what God intends His new race, His new humanity to be like, not in part but in full. God poured forth His life into humanity, that is, God manifest in the flesh, in the material world that He made and said was *very good* (Genesis 1.31). His essential nature came into humanity, but not into the old humanity. He came to this world as a new humanity based on and endowed with His essential divine nature. But take special note that He did not discard the human race. He actually joined Himself to it by being born of a woman having been overshadowed by His Spirit. Thus began the second order of man, if you will, a new species with a Divine DNA of the essence of God. This is more than an evolution of mankind; it is a revolution as God planted Himself into His race in order for this new race of sons to partake of His divine nature (2 Peter 1.4).

Don't think for a minute that Jesus came to regain all that Adam was meant to be. No; He came to bring us something much greater, to bring us into the all things new of God. Adam was created to be an incomplete man and to fail. Jesus came as the complete Man that never fails, the Man who is **the visible image of the invisible God** in which **all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form** (Colossians 1.15; 2.9).

In the Greek, there are two primary words (adjectives) translated as *new*. *Neos* means something new, fresh, young, meaning in time or recently. In other words, it is a time word. *Kainos* means unused, not new in time as in recent but new in form or quality, a different nature. This word is used in the expressions *new creation* (Galatians 6.15; 2 Corinthians 5.17), *new man* (Ephesians 2.15; 4.24), *new heaven and earth* (Revelation 21.1; 2 Peter 3.13), *New Jerusalem* (Revelation 21.2), and *all things new* (Revelation 21.5). Notice that each of what these expressions represents has a first order and is replaced with a second order that, by definition, has a different quality or nature from the first, a new form that to God is far better than the first; it is the best.

Thus, from the very beginning, God's plan has been based on a second order that is not a cleaned-up version of the first but one that is entirely new. The second order is the all things new of God. **"Behold, I make all things new."** Another way to state this is that God is filling all things with His very nature and He is doing this through, in, and by His Son, the prototype, pattern, and embodiment of the New Creation, the New Man.

God and man have been joined into One New Man in which dwells the very essence of God. The primary essence of God is love, and out from this love comes His many attributes, such as righteousness, peace, truth, justice, wisdom, joy, grace, mercy, compassion, kindness, and gentleness, to name a few.

The Son of God came down from heaven embodying the very nature of God and took on flesh, thus identifying Himself with earth itself. Heaven and earth have been united in this Man. There is no death or sin in this man. He is the Perfect Man and the Perfect Son in the sight of God. He is the Universal, Inclusive, Representative Man. He is the All in All of God who fills all things with Himself as the full expression of God's All - of His will, His desires, His thoughts, and, most of all, His selfless, unconditional love.

Dear friends, all mankind is destined to be brought into this same full expression, not to replace Jesus, for He will be forever unique in God's creation, but to be patterned after Him as sons of God. This is what the gospel is!