

THE CHRISTIAN CALLING

By Keith Greer

Today, we briefly examine the threefold nature of the "**Christian's Calling**."

A High Calling. "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. {Philippians 3:13,14} God calls us to attain eternal salvation by obeying His will. In this life, everything else is of little consequence when compared to the eternal goal- a home in heaven - for which we continually strive.

A Heavenly Calling. "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus." {Hebrews 3:1} "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." {Ephesians 1:3} Why is the Christian's calling a "heavenly calling?" Our Lord is in heaven {Acts 2:31-36}. Our citizenship is in heaven {Philippians 3:20}. Therefore, our calling is a heavenly calling because it is His divine will that all men be called by His message {2 Thessalonians 2:14}. The power that saves us is our obedience to that message.

A Holy Calling. "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." {2 Timothy 1:9} The apostle Peter instructed God's people to live holy lives {1 Peter 1:15}. God calls upon His people to live their lives by a different standard than the one the world follows {Romans 12:1,2}. He expects us to be holy in all of life's aspects-our deeds, our thoughts, and our words. We serve as lights in a world that is spiritually dark {Matthew 5:13-16}.

God's people are called upon to make a great difference in a world that has mostly rejected and forgotten about Him. One of the things God's people need to keep in their hearts— God gave us duties to accomplish concerning His work while we have life here. Nobody can influence the world to live for God except His children. Can others truly see the difference in the Christian's calling and the calling of those who are following Satan in our lives? (John 8:44) ***