

# Philippians – Above the Circumstances!

## Phil 3:10-14 *Called Heavenward*

‘God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus’ (NIV)

‘the high calling of God...’ (KJV)

‘God has called me to life above’ (NCV)

‘the upward call of God’ (NASB, NKJV)

*the up calling of God* (Gk)

*What is the direction/focus of our lives?*

# **Above the Circumstances!**

**Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward**

**Context: knowing what really counts...**

- **The surpassing greatness of Christ's work for us on the cross**
- **The surpassing greatness of the experience of knowing Christ**

# Above the Circumstances!

## Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward

### Verse 10-11 Knowing Him

- I want to know Him!!!

- Not simply knowing more about Christ, but having a deeper and deeper experience of Christ
- Knowing God has a healthy and highly addicting quality about it

*“Once taste God and nothing but God will do anymore!”*

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## Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward

### Verse 10-11 Knowing Him

- I want to know Him!!!
- Following Jesus: suffering, death, resurrection
  - I John 2:6; John 16:33
  - The 'good life' is not promised for here and now, but for there and then.
- Do we 'get it'?
  - Moses            Heb 11:24-26
  - Abraham        Heb 11:8-10
- The wonder of it all...

# **Above the Circumstances!**

## **Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward**

### **Verse 10-11 Knowing Him**

### **Verse 12-14 No Place for Complacency**

- **A sophomore, not a senior – vs. 12a, 13a**
  - **Freshman: doesn't know, but doesn't know he doesn't know**
  - **Sophomore: doesn't know, but knows he doesn't know**
  - **Junior: knows, but doesn't know he knows**
  - **Senior: knows and knows he knows**

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## Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward

### Verse 10-11 Knowing Him

### Verse 12-14 No Place for Complacency

- A sophomore, not a senior – vs. 12a, 13a

All that Paul knew and experienced was only scratching the surface! See Rom 11:33ff

The true knowledge of God humbles us.

- The path heavenward ... finds God bigger

*Every year you grow you will find me bigger...*

- Pressing forward in the Race Heavenward  
See vs. 12b, 13b, 14

# Above the Circumstances!

## Phil 3:10-14 Called Heavenward

### Application: What Might This Look Like?

- **It doesn't matter, for I've known God**

*Those who really know God never brood on might-have-beens; they never think of the things they have missed, only of what they have gained.... What normal person spends his time nostalgically dreaming of manure? Yet this, in effect is what many of us do. It shows how little we have in the way of the true knowledge of God.*

- **Caring more for what is to come than for what is now**

*The glory of Christ is magnified when our hearts are more satisfied in Him than in all that death takes from us. [By this] we show that Christ is more to be desired than all this world can offer.*