

## **Acts 28 – The Great N.T. dispensational divide**

**Phils.3 –loss to win, prize, might attain the out-resurrection**

**2Tim.2:2 – be strong, soldier, athlete, farmer, crown, first to partake  
consider the resurrection of Christ**

Rewards for faithful service 03

We now turn our attention to the immediate context of the prize of the high calling in Philippians 3. Paul's desire to win Christ, to be found in him, to know him, to attain by any means that resurrection, and to press for that prize is written shortly after he had listed the very actions of Christ that inspired him.

Philippians 2, where Paul outlined the mind of Christ, prepares our understanding for Philippians 3. He had implored the Philippians to emulate that mind of Christ and in chapter 3, Paul is showing he sought that same mind as he strived to lay aside everything that might impede total obedience. Total obedience brought wonderful consequences for Christ, that being exaltation and glorification and similar consequences are available for the faithful servant. Here is a parallel between the mind of Christ and the desires of Paul.

Christ's humiliation, faithfulness [out resurrection] and exaltation. The mind of Christ.

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Php 2:5-11.*

Christ emptied himself of all rights, prerogatives, heavenly glory and status and humbled himself, he assumed the form of a servant, and was so obedient it included an ignoble and humiliating death. He was denied a fair trial and died with criminals, but he was raised out from the dead and highly exalted.

Paul's humiliation, faithfulness [out resurrection] and exaltation. Paul seeking the mind of Christ.

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Php 3:7-14.*

Paul wanted to imitate Christ in humble service, because humble service resulted in an exaltation, not the gift of eternal life. The lessons here are essential for us today.

It cannot be understated that these passages are not about faith into Christ bringing redemption through his blood and forgiveness of sins. They are not about the transfer from the power of darkness into the kingdom of his dear son and any other redemption theme such as, identification, substitution, reconciliation, the gift of eternal life, the resurrection from the dead and righteousness reckoned by faith through grace. As the writer of Hebrews puts it, these things are the elementary doctrines.

*Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.* Heb 6:1-2. ESV.

Philippians is about “things that accompany salvation”, not the elementary teachings and thus contextually, rejects any suggestion that the righteousness written about here is the divine righteousness reckoned by grace via faith. This is righteousness as a result of faithful service. But first an outline of the features in the life of Christ and Paul as found in these two sections.

Our Lord Christ	Our Apostle Paul
2:6-11 form, equal with God	3:4-14 Hebrew, Pharisee, zeal, blameless
abasement,	gain to loss, forgetting, reaching
form servant	dung to win Christ
likeness men,	righteousness on Christ's faithfulness
fashion as a man	Paul's desire for exaltation
he humbled himself	to know him, resurrection, sufferings, death
highly exalted	if by any - means resurrection out of dead

The link connecting Christ's exaltation and Paul's desire to attain the resurrection out from the dead must not be missed. The out resurrection is the gateway to Paul's desire.

If we desire the same exaltation of our heavenly Father, then we should note that this incredible section featuring the prize and special resurrection is framed by warnings, warnings that particularly apply to the obtaining, or not, of them. Serious consideration of these warnings as they relate to the prize is recommended.

*Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.* Php 3:2-3.

*if somehow I may attain to a resurrection out of the dead.* Php 3:11 LITV.

*I press on after a mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Php 3:14

LITV.

*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction [1:28 perdition], whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)* Php 3:17-19.

The workers in 3:2-3 are the walkers in 3:17-19. Their emphasis is on the flesh as put for the belly or what they can get out of it, it is on legalism as found in concision, but their

future glory is shame, they mind earthly things and as such are enemies of the cross of Christ, not enemies of the gospel. Paul had mentioned these in 1:28 where destruction or perdition is put against salvation, and again, the context is not about initial salvation but enduring conflict and suffering. Destruction in Philippians might mean more about waste or loss rather than death as a consequence of sin, see Mk.14:4, Hebs.10:39 and read 1Tim.6:9 as ruin and waste.

The cross is put for unwavering obedience resulting in exaltation, and from the beginning of Paul's ministry and across the Acts 28 boundary, there were evil workers opposing him, both personally and doctrinally see 2Cor.11:13, 2Tim.2:16-17, and 4:14-15. These enemies defraud Christians from the prize, Col.2:16-19.

*Let no one who delights in humility and the worship of angels cheat you out of the prize by rejoicing about what he has seen. Such a person is puffed up for no reason by his carnal mind.* Col 2:18. ISV.

Ungodliness in 2Tim.2:16-17 is linked with wrong doctrine bringing wrong practice. Wrong teaching brings forth divisions of service, that being vessels of honor or less honor, vessels of gold or wood and ultimately the snare of the devil for those opposing themselves, however all these are found in the same large house. Those that oppose themselves are in danger of being ensnared and whose glory will be anything but the glory they imagined.

Faith into Christ as Savior brings righteousness reckoned by grace, but this does not automatically mean the crown of righteousness awarded to those who finish their course. We do not wish to be like those whose glory is in their shame and who receive disapproval and are found in that day insincere and offensive. Believing into Christ is not reigning with Christ, 2Tim.2.

Philippians warns against these evil workers who walked among them and I am convinced the same threats exist among us today. Satan cannot undo the salvation by faith, but he can divide and misguide believers away from the prize of the high calling. Right division and testing things that differ are essential Bible study principles countering the teachings of ungodliness.

Now we can highlight the context of the righteousness Paul sought in Philippians 3. This righteousness is inseparable from walk and works.

- 3:7-8 gains esteemed loss  
for Christ – to win Christ
- 3:9 found in him,  
not my righteousness of the law,  
[the righteousness of Christ's faithfulness](#)  
[righteousness from God on Christ's faithfulness](#)
- 3:10 That I may know him,  
[the power of his resurrection,](#)  
[the fellowship of his sufferings,](#)  
[being made conformable unto his death;](#)

3:11-13 If by any means  
a resurrection out of the dead  
3:12-14 Not attained, perfect: follow after,  
if I may apprehend,  
[for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus](#)  
this one thing I do, forgetting, reaching forth, I press after a  
the prize

These are very powerful and informative links.

1. To win Christ includes a resurrection out from the dead as the prize.
2. The righteousness of Christ by faithfulness was the righteousness Paul strived to emulate as he sought the glory of the out-resurrection. The out-resurrection is the gateway to the prize, the crown of righteousness. This righteousness was linked to obedient faithfulness unto death, not the divine righteousness reckoned by faith through grace.

Romans 4 righteousness is not Philippians 3 righteousness and the righteousness of Philippians is a key to obtaining 2Tim.4:7-8.

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## THE PRISON EPISTLES

Chart expanded from: "Prize of the High Calling". C.H.Welch.

### A Ephesians

Seated  
together

PAUL. (3:1, 7-9, 13, 6:19-20).

Prayers. Know hope, inheritance, power. (1:15-19). Know. (3:14-21, 6:18-19).  
The Dispensation. Mystery. (3:2,3,9,RV).  
Christ's ascent. Christ the Head. (4:9-10,1:20-22).  
The church which is His body. (1:22, 23).  
Fullness. (1:23, 4:10).  
Principalities and powers.\* (1:2 1).  
Instructions for The Church. (4:1-6:19).  
Aware. (3:9).

### B Philippians

The Prize

PAUL. Learned, rec'd, heard & seen. (4:9).

Prayers. Knowledge & judgment. (1:9-11). Peace. (4:6).  
**Analyze the things that differ.** (1:10).  
sincere & unoffending.  
Suffer. (1:29).  
Loss, win, press (mark), prize. (3:8, 11, 14).  
attain, (out) resurrection. (3:11).  
power of His resurrection. (3:10).  
Good Ex. (2:5-11, 19-21,25-30, 3:4-7).  
Enemies of cross, god is their belly. (3:18,19).  
Depart.<sup>o</sup> (1:23). Offered.<sup>o</sup> (2:17). Abide. (2:25).

### C Philemon

A Picture  
or an appeal

PAUL. (:10).

Prayer. Faith & Love. (:5).  
The Dispensation seen.  
Far off made nigh. A brother, son.  
Profitable servant.

### A Colossians

Complete  
in Him

PAUL. (1:23-29. 4:3-4).

Prayers. Hope, knowledge, walk. (1:3-12). Known. (4:2-4).  
Dispensation. Mystery. (1:25, 26).  
Christ's ascent. Christ the Head. (2:15, 19).  
The church which is His body. (1:24).  
Fullness. (1:19).  
Principalities and powers.\* (1:16, 2:10).  
Instructions for The Church. (3:1-4:6).  
Beware. (2:8).

### B 2 Timothy

The Crown

PAUL. Learned, assured. (1:7-11,13, 2:2,3:14, 4:16-17).

Prayers. Memory. (1:3-4). Appeal. (4:16?).  
**Rightly dividing the Word of Truth.** (2:15).  
approved & unashamed.  
Suffer. (1:12).  
Suffer ill, strive (rules), labour, endure. (2:3,5,6,10,12)  
endure, reign. (2:10).  
consider Christ's resurrection. (2:8).  
Bad Ex. (1:15,16-18, 2:17, 4:10,14).  
Snare of the devil. (2:26).  
Depart,<sup>o</sup> (4:6). Offered.<sup>o</sup> (4:6). Crown. (4:8).

\* None of these expressions occur in Philippians or 2 Timothy.  
o Only occurrences in Paul's epistles.

# Philippians, 2 Timothy

## prize, crown, out resurrection-

- B Philippians  
The Prize
- 4:9. PAUL. Learned, rec'd, heard & seen.  
1:9-10 Prayers. Knowledge & judgment. (1:9-11). Peace.  
**Analyse the things that differ.**  
sincere & unoffending.  
Suffer. (1:29).  
Loss, **win**, press (mark), **prize**. (3:8, 11,14).  
attain, **(out) resurrection**. (3:11).  
power of **His resurrection**. (3:10).  
Good Ex. (2:5-11, 19-21, 25-30, 3:4-7).  
Enemies of cross, god is their belly. (3:18,19).  
Depart.<sup>o</sup> (1:23). Offered.<sup>o</sup> (2:17). Abide. (2:25).
- B 2 Timothy  
The Crown
- PAUL. Learned, assured. (1:7-11,13, 2:2, 3:14, 4:16-17).  
Prayers. Memory. (1:3-4). Appeal. (4:16?).  
**Rightly dividing the Word of Truth.** (2:15).  
**approved & unashamed.**  
Suffer. (1:12).  
Suffer ill, strive (rules), labour, endure. (2:3,5,6,10,12)  
endure, **reign**. (2:10).  
consider **Christ's resurrection**.  
(2:8). Bad Ex. (1:15,16-18, 2:17, 4:10,14).  
Snare of the devil. (2:26).  
Depart.<sup>o</sup> (4:6). Offered.<sup>o</sup> (4:6). **Crown**. (4:8).

\* None of these expressions occur in Philippians or 2 Timothy.

<sup>o</sup> Only occurrences in Paul's epistles.

Chart expanded from: "Prize of the High Calling". CHWelch.

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# Philippians & 2 Timothy

## prize, crown, the out resurrection

### Philippians

the prize

Christ's resurrection the key in both letters

- 1:9-11 prayer, love excel in knowledge & judgment  
**approve/test/analyze things that differ**  
 sincere, unoffending, fruits of righteousness
- 2:5-10 Christ, our example – faithful unto *death*, even cross  
 \*highly exalted
- 3:4-8 Paul's loss – genealogy, righteousness of the law  
 excel in knowledge of Christ,  
 \*win/gain Christ
- 3:9-11 Paul's desire – found in Christ  
 not his faithfulness/righteousness of the [works] Law  
 but righteousness by Christ's faithfulness  
to know Christ \*power of his resurrection  
 fellowship of his sufferings, likeness of his *death*  
 Paul's desire – if by any means, attain/arrive  
 \*the resurrection out from among the dead
- 3:12-14 Paul's gain - reaching forth, to attain, perfection, forgetting  
 \* the prize – the high calling [upward call]
- 3:15-21 Paul's example, living to the standard  
 Enemies of the cross, destruction/loss, shame, earthly things 1:28
- 3:20-21 \*heaven from where we look/wait, then [out-resurrected?] bodies changed

the prize

the prize?

### 2Timothy

the crown

Christ's resurrection the firstfruit ek the dead

- 1:9-11 prayer, power, love, sound mind, afflictions with gospel  
**rightly divide the word – be diligent**  
 approved, unashamed, shun
- 2:1-6 be strong, present truth, faithful taught  
 \*soldier endure hardship, 2:9, 4:5, war to please  
 \*athlete compete lawfully, the crown  
 \*farmer toil to partake first of the fruits [cf 1Cor.15:20 et.al.]
- 2:7-8 consider, understanding from the Lord  
 remember \*Christ raise from [ek] the dead
- 2:9-13 Paul's hardship, chained malefactor, word not chained  
 \*endure so elect may obtain salvation with glory in Christ  
 faithful word dead with him – live with him  
 \*endure – reign with him +ve  
 deny him – deny us [cf 3:5] -ve  
 believe not - he continues faithful, cannot deny himself
- 2:14-26 remember v10-11, unprofitable disputes = subversion of hearers [cf 2Pet.2:6]  
 right division, shun profane fruitless discussions [1Tim.1:9, 4:7, 6:20]  
 ungodliness, gangrene, error, faith overturned  
 the gain \*gold, honor, useful vessel, unto good works  
 the loss wood, earth, dishonor, captive, snare of the devil
- 4:6-8 Paul's offering and departure, fought, finished, kept the faith  
 \*crown of righteousness  
**Love his appearing** [past for present truth 1:10, future for hope, 4:1, 8, Tit.2:13]

Based on chart in "Prize of the High Calling" C. H. Welch

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