

Three Necessities for the High Calling of God

Philippians 3:17-21

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ 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: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Introduction:

ISIS Has a Deadly Ultimatum for Christians

Christians in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, are facing an ultimatum: convert to Islam, pay a tax or abandon everything and leave.

If they don't, they could be killed.

The ultimatum was issued by the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS), **the militant group that overran Mosul last month, Al Jazeera reported** Friday.

More from Al Jazeera:

The Sunni rebel group issued the orders in a letter after Friday prayers. The document, obtained by Al Jazeera, states that the order was issued after Christian leaders failed to attend a meeting called by the group.

In response, the group says in the letter that Christians must either convert to Islam, pay a tax on non-Muslims known as jizya, or give up their possessions and leave the city. Failure to do so would result in a death penalty, “as a last resort”.

TheBlaze has previously reported on ISIS’ plans to impose on Christians a “**jizya**,” a fine more like protection money than a tax.

Iraq’s Christian population has been shrinking ever since the U.S. invasion in 2003, and many **Christians have fled** the ISIS rampage across northern Iraq.

Al Jazeera reported that Mosul’s Christian population stood at roughly 3,000 before ISIS took over — it’s unclear how many Christians remain in the city now, especially considering as many as one-third of the city’s residents fled as ISIS invaded.

The times we live in are not a time to have our heads in the sand and unaware of what is going on around us. We are living in dangerous times.

We need to make sure that we have our focus and our attention in the right place. With all the distractions and sirens calling for our attention, we can get our eyes off the prize.

If you listen to much of what is being talked about in the average pulpit in America, you would think that the goal of Christianity is to have a happy and fulfilled life. The life in Christ is about a great life, great marriage, very

little health problems, and no money problems. So often when we do have problems, we focus on fixing the symptom, rather than fixing our eyes on the solution.

Our problems, issues and troubles in this life are only the fruit of a sinful fallen world and focusing on the wrong thing. We are never promised a life without problems, in fact a correct reading of the Bible teaches quite the opposite. For those who live for Christ there is the promise of

Persecution, hatred by the world, Trials, Tribulation, Temptations, Failures,

Hatred from Family members, persecution from a spouse. betrayal into the hands of the authorities. Slander, Starvation, Thirst, Loneliness, Isolation,

Depression, Difficulties, Dispair, and Death.

There is only one way to handle this but before i tell you what it is, let me tell you what it isn't

1. Is not finding the next best seller on how to have a happy life
2. not becoming wealthy
3. not having any health problems
4. not having a wonderful job
5. not having all your family love you
6. not in the next high from drug or alcohol
7. not in the next relationship
8. not in the next church with a better pastor and head banging music
9. not in the next how to youtube video

What is it?

It is found in verse 13

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Christian life summed up into one desire, ambition, direction. focus.

Now how we do this is given to us in the text today

We have 3 things that Paul tells us are essential to pressing toward the goal

Follow Examples

Find Enemies

Focus on Eternity

I. Follow Examples

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Join in following

summimétés: a fellow imitator

Original Word: συμμιμητής, οἷ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: summimétés

Phonetic Spelling: (soom-mim-ay-tace')

Short Definition: a joint imitator

Definition: a joint imitator.

Become, (not translated in some text but is here in greek)

Present IMPERATIVE

ginomai: to come into being, to happen, to become

Original Word: γίνομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: ginomai

Phonetic Spelling: (ghin'-om-ahee)

Short Definition: I come into being, am born

Definition: I come into being, am born, become, come about, happen.

Note or Mark

skopeó: to look at, contemplate

Original Word: ΣΚΟΠΕΩ

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: skopeó

Phonetic Spelling: (skop-eh'-o)

Short Definition: regard attentively, take heed

Definition: I look at, regard attentively, take heed, beware, consider.

to scrutinize, observe. When the physical sense recedes, equivalent to **to fix one's (mind's) eye on, direct one's attention to**, a thing in order to get it, or owing to interest in it, or a duty toward it.

Observe (4648) (**skopeo** from **skopos** = distant mark looked at, goal or end one has in view; English "**scope**" as in microscope or telescope) means to "spy out", to look at, to observe, to contemplate, to mark (to fix or trace out the bounds or limits of). Skopeo implies mental consideration and so conveys the picture of attentively fixing one's attention upon something (in this case someone) with desire for (emulation) or interest in. The idea can be to "aim at". Contemplate, look into, examine, inspect, continue to regard closely, to notice carefully, pay attention to, keep one's attention on.

Vincent (quoting Schmidt) adds that **skopeo** means...

To direct one's attention upon a thing, either in order to obtain it, or because one has a peculiar interest in it, or a duty to fulfil toward it. Also to have an eye to with a view of forming a right judgment.

There are 6 NT uses of **skopeo** (mostly by Paul)...

Luke 11:35 "Then **watch** (present imperative) out that the light in you may not be darkness.

Romans 16:17 (note) Now I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye** (present tense = keep keeping your eye on them - this describes a continual need) on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we **look** (present tense = habitually) not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen

are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one **looking** (present tense = continually - almost conveys an imperative sense in this context) to yourself, (Why do you need to continually "mark" yourself?) lest you too be tempted (passive voice = describes temptation coming from outside source).

Vincent comments: Notice the passing to the singular number — “considering thyself.” (**Ed:** = "yourself") The exhortation is addressed to the conscience of each. Before you deal severely with the erring brother, consider your own weakness and susceptibility to temptation, and restore him in view of that fact. (cp 1 Cor 10:12)

Philippians 2:4 (note) do not merely **look** (present tense = continually - almost conveys an imperative sense in this context) out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 3:17 (note) Brethren, **join** in following my example, and **observe** those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Walk (4043) (**peripateo** from **peri** = around, about + **pateo** = tread, trample) (Click word study on peripateo) means literally to walk around, to tread all around, to go here and there in walking. The 39 uses in the Gospels always refer to literal, physical walking. Seven of the 8 uses in Acts are also in the literal sense (except Acts 21:21). (See Spurgeon's comments on what it means **to walk**) In the present context peripateo is used as a

figure of speech meaning to live, to conduct or to pass one's life. In fact Paul uses **peripateo** only in the metaphorical sense (32 times in his Epistles) describing the ordering of one's behavior, passing one's life (with a connotation of spending some time in a place), etc.

Pattern (5179) (**tupos** from **túpto** = strike, smite with repeated strokes) (Click for in depth study of **tupos**) literally refers to a visible mark or impression made by a stroke or blow from an instrument or object. What is left after the stroke or blow is called a print, a figure or an impression. For example, the most famous reference to a literal mark (**tupos**) is when Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection from the dead declaring "*Unless I shall see in His hands the **imprint** (**tupos**) of the nails*" ([John 20:25](#)). (See also [ISBE Article](#)) Stated another way **tupos** properly means a "model" or "pattern" or "mold" into which clay or wax was pressed (or molds into which molten metal for castings was poured), that it might take the figure or exact shape of the mold. Our English word "**type**" is similar and originally referred to an impression made by a die as that which is struck.

1 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Philippians 4:9

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

1 Peter 5:3

5 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of

the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

phili 4:9

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I Thess 4:16

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

I Thess 2:10

You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

2 Thess 3:7

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,

I Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Hebrews 13:7

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

II. Find the Enemies

¹⁸ 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:

¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

weeping

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

klaió: to weep

Original Word: κλαίω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: klaió

Phonetic Spelling: (klah'-yo)

Short Definition: I weep, weep for, mourn

Definition: I weep, weep for, mourn, lament.

HELPS Word-studies

2799 *klaió* – **properly, weep aloud, expressing uncontainable, audible** grief ("audible weeping," *WP*, 2, 88).

Whose End

telos: an end, a toll

Original Word: τέλος, ους, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: telos

Phonetic Spelling: (tel'-os)

Short Definition: an end, purpose, tax

Definition: (a) an end, (b) event or issue, (c) the principal end, aim, purpose, (d) a tax.

HELPS Word-studies

5056 *télos* (a neuter noun) – properly, consummation (the *end-goal, purpose*), such as *closure* with all its *results*.

[This root (*tel-*) means "reaching the *end (aim)*." It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).]

1. end, i. e.

a. **termination, the limit** at which a thing ceases to be,

Destruction

apóleia: destruction, loss

Original Word: ἀπώλεια, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: apóleia

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-o'-li-a)

Short Definition: destruction, ruin, loss

Definition: destruction, ruin, loss, perishing; eternal ruin.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: **684** *apóleia* (from **622** /*apólymi*, "cut off") – *destruction*, causing someone (something) to be *completely severed* – cut off (entirely) from what *could or should* have been. (Note the force of the prefix, *apo*.) See **622** (*apollymi*).

684 /*apóleia* ("perdition") does *not* imply "annihilation" (see the meaning of the root-verb, **622** /*apólymi*, "cut off") but instead "loss of *well-being*" rather than *being* (*Vine's Expository Dictionary*, 165; cf. Jn 11:50; Ac 5:37; 1 Cor 10:9-10; Jude 1

2 Peter 2:1 (note) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Peter 2:3 (note) and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Peter 3:7 (note) But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and **destruction** of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:16 (note) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own **destruction**.

Revelation 17:8 (note) "The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to **destruction**. (apoleia - eternal destruction, the Lake of fire - see notes **Revelation 19:20**) And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

BELLY OR APPETITE

They live only for the temporal pleasures of and their lives are enslaved to the gratification of the lusts of their flesh.

The highest good in life to these men is to satisfy self, to do what pleases self, in direct rebellion to the Word of God, the holiness of God and even the inner conviction of their own consciences. They are is guided only by that which satisfies and pleases self.

Steven Cole writes that...

they live for selfish and sensual pleasures, rather than denying self in order to live for Christ. The Bible does not promote asceticism, the self-imposed denial of all pleasure as a means of purifying oneself and getting right with God. Rather, it teaches that God has richly

supplied us with all things to enjoy ([1Ti 6:17](#)). But if we remove God from the center as the chief object of our joy and replace it with some earthly pleasure, we are guilty of idolatry. ([Philippians 3:17-4:1](#))

AND WHOSE GLORY IS IN THEIR SHAME:

ROMANS 1:32

³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

John Newton the once notorious slave trader wrote a poem that alluded to **glorying in shame**...

In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
 Till a new object struck my sight,
 And stopp'd my wild career:

I saw One hanging on a Tree
 In agonies and blood,
 Who fix'd His languid eyes on me.
 As near His Cross I stood.

To a great degree **glorying in shame** is an apt description of post-Christian America, **James Dobson** writing that...

In 1960, out-of-wedlock pregnancy was a **matter of shame**. When it happened, couples often did a quaint thing—they got married, so that the child would have a name and the influence of a father. Girls who “slept around” were often ostracized by their fellow students. A pregnant teenage was sent away to have the child rather than risk the censure of the community.

In 1990, one out of five babies born in America was conceived out of wedlock. In Washington, D.C., illegitimacy was an alarming 55 percent! In many schools, the virtuous girl was considered odd, and was subjected to the same scorn and ridicule once reserved for the “easy” date 30 years earlier. Surveys revealed that many of our sons and daughters were embarrassed to admit their virginity.

Spurgeon says

Remember the shame of sin when tempted by the sweet of sin.

Sin and **shame** came in both together. - Christopher Nesse

Sin has the devil for its father, **shame** for its companion and death for its wages. - Thomas Watson

PAUL IS MOST LIKELY REFERRING TO 2 GROUPS

1. JUDIAZERS PHIL 3:1-3

1. GAL 1 ANOTHER GOSPEL
2. GAL 5. THE GOSPEL OF LAW

2. GNOSTIC LIBERTINES

1. I JOHN 1 8-10
 1. DENIAL OF SIN AND FLESH
 1. WHAT THE BODY DOES, DOES NOT MATTER
 2. SPIRIT IS ALL THAT MATTTTER
 3. BODY FOR FOOD FOOD FOR BODY

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Matthew 7:15

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Galatians 1:8

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

2 Thessalonians 3:6

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:14

Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed.

1 Timothy 1:3

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer

1 Timothy 6:3

³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

Titus 3:10

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

2 John 1:10

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them.

Acts 20:31

So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

2 Corinthians 11:13

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

Romans 16:18

For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

III. Focus on Eternity

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

our Citizenship

politeuma: a form of government, citizenship

Original Word: πολίτευμα, ατος, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: politeuma

Phonetic Spelling: (pol-it'-yoo-mah)

Short Definition: a state, commonwealth

Definition: a state, commonwealth.

πολίτευμα, πολιτευματος, τό (πολιτεύω), in Greek writings from Plato down;

1. the administration of civil affairs or of a commonwealth (R. V. text (Phil. as below) **citizenship**).

2. the constitution of a commonwealth, form of government and the laws by which it is administered.

is

PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE

huparchó: to begin, to be ready or at hand, to be

Original Word: ὑπάρχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: huparchó

Phonetic Spelling: (hoop-ar'-kho)

Short Definition: I am, exist, am in possession

Definition: I begin, am, exist, am in possession.

HELPS Word-studies

5225 *hypárxō* (from **5223** /*hýparksis*, "under" and **757**/*arxō*, "begin, go first") – properly, *already* have (be in possession of); what *exists*, especially what *pre-exists*, i.e. is already *under* one's discretion (note the prefix *hypo*).

EAGERLY WAIT

PRESENT MIDDLE INDICATIVE

apekdechomai: to await eagerly

Original Word: ἀπεκδέχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: apekdechomai

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ek-dekh'-om-ahee)

Short Definition: I expect eagerly, wait for eagerly

Definition: I expect eagerly, wait for eagerly, look for.

HELPS Word-studies

553 *apekdéxomai* (from **575** /*apó*, "away from," **1209** /*déxomai*, "welcome" and **1557** /*ekdíkēsis*, "out of") – a triple compound (properly) meaning "welcome from and out of"; waiting that decisively "puts away" all that should remain *behind*.

The prefix (*apo*) intensifies the root (*dexomai*) to emphasize the idea of *separation*. **553** (*apekdéxomai*) therefore is used of looking *completely away from* this world – and *to* the upcoming redemption of our *body*.

WHO WILL TRANSFORM

metaschématizó: to change in fashion or appearance

Original Word: μετασχηματίζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: metaschématizó

Phonetic Spelling: (met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo)

Short Definition: I change the outward appearance, transfigure, adapt

Definition: I change the outward appearance (the dress, the form of presentment) of something, transfigure; I adapt.

HELPS Word-studies

3345 *metasxēmatízō* (from **3326** /*metá*, "with, bringing about change, after-effect" and **4976** /*sxēma*, "outward shape") – properly, to *change outward appearance after a change*.

CONFORMED TO HIS GLORIOUS BODY

summorphos: similar, conformed to

Original Word: σύμμορφος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: summorphos

Phonetic Spelling: (soom-mor-fos')

Short Definition: similar, conformed to

Definition: similar, conformed to.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: **4832** *sýmmorphos* – properly, *conformed*, by sharing the same *inner essence-identity (form)*; showing similar behavior from having the same essential nature (used in Phil 3:10; this adjectival form also occurs in Ro 8:29 in many texts). **See 4833** (*symmorphoō*).

ACCORDING TO THE WORKING**energeia: working, activity****Original Word:** ἐνέργεια, ας, ἡ**Part of Speech:** Noun, Feminine**Transliteration:** energeia**Phonetic Spelling:** (en-erg'-i-ah)**Short Definition:** working, activity**Definition:** working, action, productive work, activity; in the NT, confined to superhuman activity.**HELPS Word-studies****Cognate:** **1753** *enérgeia* (the root of the English term "energy") – *energy*; "power in action" (Wm. Barclay, *More NT Words*, 46). See **1754** (*energeō*).**HE IS ABLE****dunamai: to be able, to have power****Original Word:** δύναμαι**Part of Speech:** Verb**Transliteration:** dunamai**Phonetic Spelling:** (doo'-nam-ahee)**Short Definition:** I am powerful, am able**Definition:** (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.**HELPS Word-studies****Cognate:** **1410** *dýnamai* (a primitive verb) – to show *ability* (power); *able* (*enabled* by God), *empowered*. See the cognate-noun, **1411** /*dýnamis* ("ability, power").**Colossians 3:1-5**

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on

the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth:

Thomas Boston rightly said that...

The natural man's heart is where his feet should be, fixed upon earth; his heels are lifted up against heaven, which his heart should be set on.

His face is towards hell; his back towards heaven.

He loves what he should hate, and hates what he should love; joys in what he ought to mourn for, and mourns for what he ought to rejoice in; glories in his shame, and is ashamed of his glory; abhors what he should desire, and desires what he should abhor.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2 Cor 4:17

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

[1 Chronicles 22:19](#) Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God;

Matt 16:23

But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

I John 2:15

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matt 6:19

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and

steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matt 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Sister Smith, the Sunday school teacher, asked her preschool class, "How many of you would like to go to Heaven?" All the children raised their hands except Freddie. The teacher asked Freddie why he wouldn't like to go to Heaven. His reply: "I'm sorry, but I can't. I'm here with my aunt, and my mother told me to come home right after Sunday school." Almost everybody expresses a desire and expects to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to go now!

As C.S. Lewis pointed out in his classic,

Mere Christianity:

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the

Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in:” aim at earth and you will get neither. (*Mere Christianity*, p.134)