

He wants us even to want to be made conformable to His death. And that's what we must desire, if we truly belong to ~~the~~ Christ, that we be made conformable to His death, that we may then experience the power of His resurrection, and have it every day of our life, to enable us to serve Him effectively, as we should.

And then the third thing we were going to look at in this passage, the third thought that Paul stresses here, might shock some at first sight:

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead, Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: I follow after; I count ~~myself~~ not myself to have apprehended; I press ~~f~~ toward the mark. ~~for~~"

~~the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.~~ Yes, but don't you believe a person is saved once and for all? Don't you believe it's ~~God~~ he now

God's power that saves ~~us~~ him? And ~~that once~~ is saved? Well, ~~then~~ get then, why does Paul say he has to ~~be~~ apprehended? Wasn't Paul a Calvinist?

Didn't Paul know that, having been saved once, he was ~~saved~~ saved for all eternity? Why did he say this? Well, if you want these great doctrines

of the sovereignty of God, and of the ~~great~~ tremendous change that God makes instantaneously when we are saved, you'll find no better source ~~than~~

for them than Paul. But ~~a~~ you'll also find that Paul stresses this fact: that though the Christian before God has a standing that is made ~~perfect~~

perfect, just as though I had never sinned, because the righteousness of Christ is placed to his account, yet, that our state is something entirely

different, and our state moves forward gradually. Our condition has to gradually move forward with great effort and ~~strength~~ strain, and ~~g~~ God

~~wants~~ wants us to work. But He says, "You have not yet striven unto blood, striving against sin." He wants us to work, to push forward, for the mark

of the prize of the high calling of Christ Jesus. God does wonderful things for us, but he wants us to push and press and work, in order to strive for

this sanctification, for this improvement, which we will get ~~in~~ if we believe in ~~Christ~~ Christ, ~~for~~ It's promised to us. He that has begun a good