

### **One Direction!**

*Acts 16<sup>9-15</sup>; Psalm 67; Revelation 21<sup>10,22-225</sup>; John 14<sup>23-29</sup>*

*If you loved me you would rejoice that I am going to the Father. [John 14<sup>28</sup>]*

One of the family said that they were going to a concert. What they said, precisely (using very bad grammar), was, 'I'm going One Direction tonight.' They didn't get it when I asked how they going to get back: it is a long way to go all round the world!

It doesn't matter if we as Christians, run, limp or crawl, but it does matter that we are not static and that we are consciously and deliberately moving towards whatever God has for us.

- ✠ In the Gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the direction he will be moving in after the resurrection. He is going back to the Father and, when his work is done, the Holy Spirit will be sent to do his part of the work - the teacher and revision guide for Christians.
- ✠ John is already moving in God's direction in the Revelation - he has entered into this vision of what it is like in God's presence. The recurring theme is that there are no fuel bills in heaven! **God is its light.** It is the ultimate destination of the people of faith - there is no need of a **temple** as a place of worship because in God's immediate presence **its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.**

There is also a sense of movement in the **river** and in the growth of the **trees** and the seasonal **fruit.** Of life in God's presence having a rhythm and a purpose.

- ✠ In Acts, Paul is moving in the direction of **Macedonia** - a response to a vision but on the way pauses to pray on the Sabbath at **Philippi** and meets **Lydia... a dealer of purple.** She responds to the message Paul shares and **she and her household were baptised** and she goes on to host Paul for the time he spends in the city (while not in prison, where the gaoler finds faith too).

Many Christians use the grammar of *journeying* or *pilgrimage* - I confess that I try to avoid it because it is often used by those who have adopted a 'Christian' accent to go

with it and that I confess I find difficult. That said, we do need to be confident in our pilgrimage towards God and our journeying into his purpose.

So, I have to ask, what is your calling? When I have asked that before I have had it said, 'I ain't been called to do nothing!' While it wasn't what they meant to say, it is precisely correct. Our call is to something not nothing. In responding to the call God has on our lives we keep moving forward.

- ✠ Are you called to be a priest, or a deacon or a licensed Reader? You may very well be - God has a sense of humour! That is a decision the Church makes, but the first step is you accepting that this may very well be what God has for you and talking about it.
- ✠ Are you called to share your faith? There are no effective course to get you to do this. As with so many calls of God, it is something you begin to do and then you hone your skills. If you don't like talking to people, you probably aren't called to be an evangelist, but if you naturally engage....
- ✠ Are you called to care for others? Again, this may be God wanting to develop and extend something you are naturally inclined towards.
- ✠ Are you called to minister to your family? Perhaps this is the hardest of all calls - to be who God wants you to be just where you are? It may be that your task is to pray for and with children and grandchildren and to show God's love through your love.

'I'm going One Direction!' And while life lasts, I will keep going and responding to the call of God - sometimes that may come in a vision, but most likely it will be in being faithful where God has placed you.