

Embrace  
Holy  
Living

# RE- FLECTING GOD

**06/19/13 - Onward And Upward!**

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Philippians 3:12-4:1

Young Pony Express riders endured fierce blizzards, blazing heat, flash floods, and unimaginable dangers to ensure that the mail would go through. To conserve weight, horses often traveled without shoes, and riders were required to weigh less than 125 pounds.\* However scant were their supplies each rider carried a Bible and took an oath of devotion, agreeing to abstain from profanity, drunkenness, and gambling. They promised to be honest and to faithfully fulfill their duties, "by the help of God."\*\*

In Philippians 3, Paul narrows his focus to fulfill his oath and devotion to the Lord. With tears he bears the burden, crying out to God for the needs of others. His zeal seems to propel him into martyrdom. In our rationalization we put him in a category of saints and shy from his expectations, even though we share his prized goal.

Express riders faced extreme hardships. God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus, our joy and crown!

\* Steve Greenwood, [http://blog.wellsfargo.com/guided by history/pony\\_express\\_ride](http://blog.wellsfargo.com/guided%20by%20history/pony_express_ride), 10/11/10 (accessed 6/19/12).

\*\* Paul Lee Tan, [www.TanBible.com](http://www.TanBible.com), referenced "Our Daily Bread" (accessed 6/19/12).

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