

The Church -- The Called Out

What a great privilege and marvelous honor to be a member of the church of Christ. We are highly exalted with heaven's continual blessings and promises! We have within our hearts wonderful happiness because of the hope of eternal life given to those who are members of the Lord's church. From the Greek word "ekklesia" (church), we know why it is such an honor and joy. The word means "the called out." Therefore, that places before us some outstanding truths for us to forever remember.

We are Called Out by the Gospel

The child of God is a "called" person. However, please take note of how we are called. "Whereunto he called you by our gospel" (2Th. 2:14). Nevertheless, some seem to be more interested in human feelings and worked-up emotions than they are in the truth of God's inspired word. To this type of people, it is a "better felt than told" feeling which is separate from the plain teachings of the word of God. Those called out are called out by the gospel of Christ, and by no other means. We can't forget that "there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:7).

We are Called Out of Darkness

To the people who were having their faith greatly tested by much hardship, Peter wrote for them to have both hope and strength, by saying, "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praise of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1Pet. 2:9). Upon our obedience to the gospel, we are called out of the darkness of ignorance, out of sin and sadness and into His light which brings knowledge, goodness, and joy. A life in the darkness offers God no fruit, but a life in the light most assuredly does. The darkness of rebellion to Christ and His will brings no honor or fruit unto God, whereas, knowledge and submission does honor His greatness. Let us "walk in the light as He is in the light (1Jn. 1:7).

We are Called Out of Hopelessness

Take away hope from a person, and then tell me what that person has. What meaning would life have? Our hope is not in the great discoveries of mankind. Our hope is not in the many degrees that one may acquire from the halls of higher learning of man's schools. This hope we have, and is sure, is in Jesus Christ and His church for which He died (Ac. 20:28; Him. 1:1; Heb. 6:19). The gospel brings us hope (Col. 1:5,23).

How thankful I am for the church - the called out! How about you?

- Fred House (adapted)