

Handout June 7, 2024

Called Out of Darkness
I Peter 2:9-10

Welcome back. Tonight, we begin a three-part series. This is what we will cover in the next three weeks, mostly coming out of Ephesians 4.

1. Your Calling
2. Your Gifts
3. Your Walk

As always, I expect to challenge you, so I hope you rise to the occasion and examine your *calling*.

1st Peter 2:9-10 ... 'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.'

Ephesians 4:1 says '**... to walk worthy of the calling ...**'

===== Prayer =====

- 1) Everyone's _____ is the same!

So let's get rid of some myths. What is a *calling*?

Many, myself included, say... "I have a *calling*", and I do ... the same as yours!

What has God called you to?

KLEISIS: Greek - a *calling*: a legal summons; an invitation. Hebrew - a *calling*: vocation.

It's very pragmatic. It is not a mystical ... super secret ... only you know for sure ... commission by God. It is a very direct summons from someone very important. God calls/summons the Christian.

God has called us --- summoned us --- out of darkness. **1st Peter 2:9-10**

- 2) You are a _____ people.

But before you can fulfill your new vocation, which is to proclaim His marvelous work --- the Gospel -- - you must learn to walk.

- 3) First, though, what has God called you out of? _____

A gambling addiction, love of money, sexual issues, pornography, etc... unforgiveness, bitterness...?

What was your darkness?

- Apathy towards people
- Apathy toward the Word of God
- Stuck in satan's cosmic world order system that promotes pride, self, lust, desire, sensuality...?

What catches your eye?

===== Holy Spirit, cleanse us now and strengthen us. =====

Are you still in darkness? Only you know.

4) God has _____ me out of _____ to _____.

Ephesians 4:1 King James Version 'I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, '

So there we have it... our summons... a call to action.

Romans 8:28 '... to those who are the called ... '

I Corinthians 1:26-29 ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.

5) Being called _____ make me _____.

In fact, it proves God's power by using you. Yet let's not forget why we were called.

II Peter 2:16-21

Philippians 2:12-16

You are the light in the dark place where you once lived; where you were CALLED OUT OF.

Are you hanging out on the fringes of darkness? Doing just enough to feel guilty and need forgiveness? Just enough to be inert and powerless? Why? Because you don't believe God will act on your behalf... You are either:

- a. A bright light
- b. A dull light
- c. A light covered

None the less, your *calling* is into the light.

Listen... God has said He wants to use the weak things.

----- That's you.

That all things work to the good...

----- That's you.

A chosen people.

----- That's you.

Ask yourself tonight.....

6) _____ do I _____ to _____ back from the edge.