

Intro:

“privilege”: special right granted to citizens of a distinct community based on conditions. Such you have as members of the Visible Church: READ LC Q&A 63

EP (Main point of text): All God’s people will come to Jesus and be accepted by Him.

HP (Main application of text): *Come inside.*

Move 1: In the Visible Church you receive God’s special care.

LC: “being under God’s special care and government”:

- *Special Care of God: His Personal interest and oversight:*
 - *And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain. (Isa 4:5-6)*
 - *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. (1Ti 4:10)*
- *Special government: delegated oversight through church officers:*
 - *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Heb 13:17)*
 - *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:11-12)*

Move 2: In the Visible Church, you receive God’s special protection.

LC: “being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies”:

- *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God? O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. (Psa 115:1-2, 9)*
- *For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof. As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it. (Isa 31:4-5)*
- READ Zechariah 12:2-4, 8-9:

Move 3: Don't neglect meaningful Family time in your Father's House.

LC: "enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation":

- *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Act 2:39)*
- *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Act 2:42): Basics of being the church together.*

Move 4: Come in to hear Good News from your Brother.

LC: "and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved":

- *He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. ²⁰ He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD. (Psa 147:19-20)*
- *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; (Rom 9:4)*
- *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Eph 4:11-12)*
- *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mar 16:15-16).*

Move 5: Jesus beckons you into His Father's home, and will not turn you away.

LC: "Christ ... excluding none that will come unto him". John 6:37:

- Context: telling those who don't believe in Him it is due to election.
- But those whom the Father gives Jesus come to Him. He beckons you to do so.
- IC is in view here, but where do you come to Jesus? Through His call in Visible Church.
- Where do you come close to Jesus and spend time with Him on this earth? Visible Church.

Conclusion:

HP: *Come inside.*