

**The Called**  
**Part III**  
**The Hope of His Calling**  
**March 12, 2017**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

In recent weeks, we have been learning about the “called”; they are those whom God has bidden to come unto Him and who have responded to that call by placing their trust in Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection to save them from their sins.

These are they for whom this amazing promise in Romans 8 is penned in Scripture.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called** according to *his* purpose.

As we have explored this wonderful calling of God, we have come to learn more about something in Scripture called “the hope of His calling”.

In Ephesians, the Bible expands greatly on what God has predestinated or prepared ahead of time for us.

In Chapter One, when we get down to verse 18, God begins to explain something called the “hope of his calling”.

**Ephesians 1:18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is **the hope of his calling**, and what *are* the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Today, by way of a little review, we must remember that this word “hope” we are reading in verse 18 has a very different meaning than the way it is usually used today.

We hope the traffic will be light as we travel our highways.

We hope we will not be late and miss the beginning of the movie.

We hope our economy will improve under our new administration.

But the Bible word is different.

**elpis**

*el-pece'*

From **ἐλπω** **elpō** which is a primary word (to *anticipate*, usually with pleasure); *expectation* (abstract or concrete) or *confidence*: - faith, hope.

This word is *an expectation*; actually even more; it is *a confident expectation*.

9. You can expect to get discouraged; you can expect to be disappointed...but never give up; God is faithful.

**Conclusion:**

**There is one expectation you should definitely both have of yourself and be diligent to remember.**

**Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Everyone falls and everyone fails. The issue is not “what if I fall?” The issue is whether I confess my sin, get back up and start again.**

A Bible hope is sure and solid and guaranteed; just not here yet.

God wants you to know the hope of His calling; He wants you to know what to expect.

Thus far we have addressed a part of this “hope” or expectation that is produced when we answer God’s call upon our lives.

We’ve looked at some of the more basic things we should expect when we answer God’s call: our spirit being made alive, our new hunger for God’s Word, our understanding being opened, our blindness falling away and a lot more.

We also have addressed some the things that God expects of us.

He expects us to get baptized. He expects us to love Him, He expects us to obey Him and to follow Him.

Today in Part III, we will be expanding into some other very essential areas of our Christian lives.

Christian life, as wonderful as it is, is not all love, joy and peace.

When we speak of hope, especially in a Biblical sense, we usually are talking about something positive and wonderful; yet there are some things we must expect that are definitely NOT positive or wonderful.

Today we are going to talk about some of the more harsh realities that you can expect to face as you embrace your new life in Christ.

Some of these realities are capable of knocking you down hard if you are not prepared to face them.

So let me give you fair warning; today's message might not fully qualify as a "feel good" message; just in case that is what you were "hoping" for...

Next, as a Christian:

### I. What can you expect from others?

*A. When you get saved, what can you expect from others out in the world?*

1. Jesus had much to say about this.

#### **John 15:18-21**

**18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

**19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

**20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

**21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

3. God knew everything there is to know about you before you were ever born.

**Jeremiah 1:5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...

4. **Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

5. God places no limits on how many times He will pick you up.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

6. How many times does a baby fall before he is able to walk?

7. You can pretty much expect that of yourself trying to walk with the Lord as well.

8. Besetting sins can be murder trying to conquer!

**Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and **the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

11. Even the Devil will usually leave you alone if you don't bring any glory to Jesus.

12. Not every new believer learns enough quickly enough to survive.

## II. What can you expect of yourself?

### *A. You can expect disappointment.*

1. You are probably going to find that you are not as strong as you thought you would be.

2. Things that you thought you would never do again, you now find yourself doing.

3. Places you thought you would never go again; whether physically or in your thoughts...you find yourself again, only now you are taking Jesus there with you.

4. In all likelihood you will find that the one person in life who will disappoint you the most is you.

5. All who set out to live their New Christian life still fall short of God's glory.

### *B. You can also expect the Lord to be there to pick you up when you fall.*

1. God knows the problems you have with sin.

2. God knows all your weaknesses.

## 2. **2 Timothy 3:10-13**

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

3. Worldwide, Christians are being heavily persecuted today.

a. The PEW research center documents that 75% of the worlds governments have severe religious restrictions aimed primarily at Christians.

b. "From verbal harassment to hostile feelings, attitudes and actions, Christians in areas with severe religious restrictions pay a heavy price for their faith. Beatings, physical torture, confinement, isolation, rape, severe punishment, imprisonment, slavery, discrimination in education and employment, and even death are just a few examples of the persecution they experience on a daily basis."

c. According to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.

d. According to research, every month; 322 are killed.  
214 properties are destroyed.  
722 acts of violence such as beatings, abductions, rapes, arrests and forced marriages are perpetrated, all because of their faith in Christ.

4. In America you may be spared anything this severe; then again, you may not.

5. One thing is sure; the more evident your faith in Christ becomes, the more the world will reject you; they will see to it that you have to choose between them and the Lord.

*B. What then can you expect from other Christians?*

1. At first, it's all honeymoon!

2. There will be lots of "Congratulations".

3. There will be lots of "Welcome to the family" and invitations to various meetings and classes; Home Teams and such.

4. When you get baptized you are going to feel like a rock star; at least here at Lighthouse.

4. When you publicly state your faith and you come up out of the water, this place will explode with heartfelt applause and praise.

5. In many cases new believers expect all those other Christians to act like perfect little Angels...and then they start getting to know them a little better.

6. The more you are around them, (us, that is), the more you realize that we're all still a bunch of sinners.

7. Then somebody says something to offend you or is just so purely wrong you are devastated with disappointment.

8. Now you are thinking, "How can somebody who is a Christian act like that?"

9. Then you are thinking, "Why should I try to live better when so and so is doing such and such?"

10. Then, if somehow you don't manage to get your eyes back on the Lord instead of other people, you will find yourself back out there in the world where you will never fit in...but they will let you pretend you do as long as you act like them and keep your mouth shut about Jesus.