**January 13, 2013**

**Walking in Grace
Ephesians 3:8-13**

**Q.** What is the church?

 - The called out ones

**Q.**  What are we called out from?

For many years now we have been told that we are to, “Come out from among them and be separate, saith the Lord.”

* 2 Cor. 6:17

But the notion that we should not be in this world leading the way for truth and righteousness – well, that was not Paul’s intent here.

* Note: 2 Cor. 6:1-10

**Q.**  So, what is the church’s purpose in the world and in the heavenlies?

Answer: That both the world and the heavenlies would see and understand the manifold wisdom of God.

God uses the church today to teach the world and the heavens of his great wisdom.

**Note:** 1 Peter 1:10-12

**Q.** Why would being able to approach God be such a big deal?

 - Hebrews 4:14-16

I want you and me to remember this:

* We are the Lord’s greatest treasure
* He paid a heavy price for our salvation
* He has allowed each of us to be a part of the greatest mystery of all times
* Angels are constantly watching us so that they might better understand the mystery of God, through Jesus, through you.

I believe that the church is:

* Central to history
* Central to the gospel
* Central to living a Christian life

**Note:** vs. 13 – “Not to be discouraged.”

I want to close today with this challenge (and I know that I’m probably preaching to the choir):

* Don’t make church attendance an option (make it a priority)
* Don’t allow the things of this world to steal your joy in being a part of church
* Be committed to regular worship here at HCC
* Bring your families so that they may grow in this great mystery of God
* Share your love for the church with those whom you come in contact with
* Don’t make evangelism an option either

How will our families, friends, and the world around us learn of God’s great love if we aren’t committed to each other and this church?

Let’s commit to being a part of the greatest mystery of all times – the Church.