“As the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved”
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a lesson by Mark Copeland)

Introduction:
A. 1Peter 1:1-2 - His first epistle is written to Christians made “elect” by 3 things:
   1. The eternal plan of God the Father
   2. The influence and agency of the Holy Spirit
   3. The self-offering of Jesus Christ
   4. We become “elect” by choosing to obey the Gospel
B. Col. 3:12-15 - Paul speaks of Christians’ role in maintaining their election
   1. We are made holy by the above; we are beloved by the above
   2. We respond by pursuing the characteristics that keep us holy
C. Peter describes Christians in conflicting terms:
   1. “Pilgrims of the Dispersion” implying that Christians are strangers and foreigners sojourning in a land not our own, scattered about like seed.
   2. One might think that since Christians are scattered strangers in this world, we are to be pitied
   3. Not true; though we are strangers in the world, we are God’s elect
      a. The word “elect” simply means chosen - 1Peter 2:9-10
D. What does it mean to be God’s chosen people?

I. WE BECOME ELECT THROUGH GOD’S PREDETERMINED PLAN
A. “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God”
   1. The word “foreknowledge” comes from “prognosis,” meaning “forethought or pre-arrangement”
   2. “Their election and salvation was in accordance with God's predetermined purpose to save men through the gospel, and hence, according to foreknowledge.” (BW Johnson, People's NT Commentary)
B. God planned it before the world began - Eph. 1:4-5, 2:10
C. Is this election individual or corporate?
   1. Election by God is general, not particular; corporate, not individual; that it would be the body of Christ, the church as a whole, not individual members by special selection; the second would make God a respecter of persons. He is the Savior of the Body
   3. Still, individuals must be diligent to make their calling and election sure; that is, they must be diligent to be faithful members of the body of the saved - 2Peter 1:10

II. WE BECOME ELECT THROUGH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT
A. Sanctification is the process by which we are set apart for God's purpose, accomplished by the Holy Spirit - Rom. 15:16; 1Cor. 6:11; 2Thes. 2:13
B. How the Holy Spirit accomplishes our sanctification
   1. It is through the Word of God - John 16:12-13, 17:17; 2Thes. 2:13-14
III. WE BECOME ELECT BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST
   A. The forgiveness of sins made possible by the blood of Jesus Christ
      1. Rev. 1:5; Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1John 1:7-9

III. WE BECOME AND REMAIN ELECT BY OBEDIENCE
   A. God's chosen are expected to be obedient - Eph. 2:10
   B. Obedience is taught by grace - Titus 2:11-14
   C. We must be diligent in good works - Titus 3:1, 5, 8, 14
   D. We must strive to maintain our holy condition - 1Peter 1:13-16

Conclusion:
   A. We are God's chosen people, made His elect by:
      1. God's eternal plan
      2. The Holy Spirit setting us apart
      3. Jesus Christ cleansing us from our sins
      4. Our obedient response to these things