

“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