

A Letter to the ELECT

1 Peter 1:1-2

Romans 8:28-33

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17



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GOD Is ETERNAL

- This is the **very first truth** that God reveals about Himself! (Genesis 1:1)
- Unless one believes this TRUTH he/she can never understand today's sermon or the Gospel.
- Unless one believes this TRUTH he/she commits IDOLATRY every time they worship "their non-eternal god". (Exodus 20:1-6)
- ★ **Isaiah 57:17**; Psalm 90:1-2; Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 40:28; Jeremiah 10:10; Romans 1:20; 16:26; 1 Timothy 1:17; Genesis 21:33 - EL OLAM!

God's Eternal Purpose

- ★ Saved by the TRIUNE GOD.
 - God, the Father: Election, Predestination, Effectual Calling, Justification, Glorification
 - God, the Son: Redemption; Propitiation
 - God, the Holy Spirit: Regeneration, Sanctification, Security
- ★ Golden Chain of Grace



ROMANS 8:28-30

Author: The Apostle Peter (v. 1)

- Sent/Commissioned by Jesus Christ.
- Speaks with the **same** authority as Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:16)
- To ignore/disobey any imperative verb that Peter writes is sin against Christ and, ultimately, sin against God. (Psalm 51:4)
- Elder. One with much experience and wisdom. (1 Peter 5:5)
- Close to martyrdom. (2 Peter 1:13-14)

A Letter to the Dispersed (1 Peter 1:1)

- (Acts 8:1-4) MEDITATE: God scatters in order to have His Word preached “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)
- LESSON: No matter where God has us or whatever situation He has us in we are to BE HOLY because HE IS HOLY. (1 Peter 1:13-16)

A Letter to the ELECT (v. 2)

- This is a letter written to a **SELECT** group of people — the **ELECT!**
- It is a letter designed to encourage and exhort these saints that are dispersed, suffering persecution, and are about to suffer even greater persecution.
- This is a letter to ALL the ELECT of GOD – no matter what century they are living in or where they are living.

Doctrine: ELECTION

- Doctrine Biblically Stated: “By the **decree** of God, the Creator of the entire universe, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined (before time began) to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death.” (WCF)
- **FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE.**
 - EVERYTHING proceeds from GOD’S ELECTION. EVERYTHING happens as a result of God’s election. ALL of history comes to be as a result of God’s election.
 - This doctrine establishes a GOD-CENTERED theology/faith!
 - This doctrine gives ALL glory, honor, and praise to God (Creator) and NONE to men (creatures). This doctrine EXALTS God and bring men LOW!
 - Get this doctrine wrong and EVERYTHING else you believe about GOD, grace, sin, salvation, etc. will be wrong.
- Election is JUST AS MUCH part of the glorious Gospel as the death and resurrection of Christ. IT IS FOUNDATIONAL!

Chosen by the Father

- Before time began God **chose** individuals to be His SPECIAL PEOPLE. (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 11:5-7; Acts 15:18; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 13:8; 17:8)
- These, before time began, were registered in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; Luke 10:20)
- THESE He gave to His Son to save. (John 6:37-39, 10:27-30; 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 22, 24)

- God does EVERYTHING according the counsel of HIS OWN WILL – NOT man’s!! (Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:9-11; Psalm 115:1-3; 135:6; Daniel 4:35)
- FALSE ARGUMENT: God looked into the future and chose (elected) those who would believe in Him
→ There are NONE who seek God! (Psalm 14:2-3; 53:1-3; Romans 3:10-18)
- “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father” – “foreknowledge” is His decree of election! Election comes from within God – NOT OUTSIDE of Himself!
- **ELECTION IS GOD’S WORK! OUR’S IS OBEDIENCE!**
- Election is God’s work! We are to PREACH the Gospel to EVERY creature. (Mark 16:15)

Sanctified by God, the Holy Spirit

- “sanctified” – “set apart” – We are chosen OUT of the world. (John 15:19; 17:14-16; **2 Peter 2:9-10**)
 - ★ We are set apart from the world – **we are DIFFERENT.**
 - ★ We are set apart **from sin** - sin no longer has power over us.
(Romans 6:14) From sin unto GOD/Holiness! (Romans 6:19-22)
 - ★ We are set apart **from death.** (Romans 6:9; John 5:24, 52-53; 10:28; 11:25-26; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:55-56; 1 John 3:14; 5:10-12)
- The SPIRIT of GOD **works out** GOD’s election. The SPIRIT (not man) produces faith (Ephesians 2:8-9); repentance (Acts 11:15-18), new life (Titus 3:5) in the ELECT.
- Man is born DEAD in his/her trespasses (Ephesians 2:1-3).
- A DEAD person cannot see, hear, speak, believe, understand or walk (come). Man is born “without strength”. (Romans 5:6)
- BEFORE one can see (John 3:3-8), hear (Romans 10:13), speak (Romans 10:9), understand (1 Corinthians 2:14); or come (Matthew 11:28-30) – he must be “born again”! He must be GIVEN LIFE **before** he can do anything good! (Romans 6:23)
- God sends His Spirit to give life! JOHN 6:63; Romans 8:10, 11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 John 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)
- The Holy Spirit SEALS His work by Himself! (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; 2 Timothy 2:19)

For Obedience to God, the Son

- “for one to obey Jesus Christ” – GOD saves us so that we **can** obey! (See Romans 8:7-8)

- We are saved unto “good works” that God has planned for us from eternity! (Ephesians 2:10)
- Salvation leads to the “obedience of faith”. (Romans 1:5; 16:25-26; Acts 6:7; Hebrews 5:9)
- Election leads to salvation that produces “children of God” and the “children of God” practice (have a lifestyle of) righteousness. (1 John 2:29; 3:6-10)
- OBEDIENCE is the EVIDENCE of our ELECTION. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:3)

Secured by the BLOOD of the Lamb

- As we were ELECTED “*before time began*”, so, too, Christ was “foreordained before the foundation of the world”. (1 Peter 1:18-20)
- Just as the Israelites came under God’s protection on the first PASSOVER by the sprinkling of the blood on their doorpost, so, too, we are SECURED from God’s wrath by the blood of Christ, God’s lamb! (Exodus 12:13; Ephesians 1:7-9)
- Christ’s, the Lamb of God (John 1:29), blood is “the blood of a new covenant” – COVENANT – GOD’s promise! (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; **HEBREWS 12:24**)

Gifts of Election

- GRACE – God bestows His abundance of grace to save us (Ephesians 2:4-8). AND He gives MORE grace to the humble! (1 Peter 5:5; James 4:6)
HUMILITY IS AN EVIDENCE OF ELECTION.
- PEACE MULTIPLIED! The WORK of Christ we have PEACE with GOD (Romans 5:1). God promises “the peace of God, which surpasses understanding” in the midst of all circumstances as we do (obey) the Word of God! (Philippians 4:6-9)

What We Must Do

- Make our election SURE! (2 Peter 1:10)
- Does our life of obedience give evidence that we have been elected/ chosen by God?