

1 Pet. 1:1-2: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, & Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ & for sprinkling with his blood: May grace & peace be multiplied to you.

Intro: We started studying a new book of the Bible last week: 1 Peter. I'm excited about this: one reason I gave: Do you want to know more deeply about the joy of being chosen by God? You belong to Him, no matter what! He chose you! He elected you! He loved you from forever past!

We saw Peter's denial of Jesus last week: **Mark 16:5-7:** & entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, & they were alarmed. & he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. **But go, tell his disciples & Peter** that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

- **John Calvin:** The wickedness of men cannot change the election of God! **GOSPEL!**

- **John 15:16:** You did not choose me, but I chose you & appointed you that you should go and bear fruit

God loves you forever, God chose you forever, & God will never let you go forever!

1. The First Way Peter Defines Those To Whom He Writes Is Elect (Chosen)

1 Pet. 1:1: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect . . . ; **Who are the elect?**

a. Their first identity: More important than the fact that they are exiles of the dispersion; more important than the fact that they are from Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia, or anywhere else – most importantly – they are elect!

b. God is an electing God – God is a choosing God: He chose Noah; He chose Abraham; He chose Isaac & not Ishmael; He chose Jacob & not Esau; God chose Judah as the tribe from which the Scepter would not depart; He chose Moses to lead His people out of slavery; He chose Israel to be His special people of all the peoples of the earth:

- **Deut. 7:6-8:** For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you & chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you & is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand & redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God chose David to be King & to have a throne that would be established forever. Jesus came choosing – He chose his twelve disciples. & God chose the greater David's Son – Jesus – to come & save His people from their sins by dying on that cross & rising up from the dead! God is an electing, choosing God!

c. The elect are God's special, chosen ones whom He loves & whom He will most certainly save:

1) Jesus speaks of God's elect: Matt. 24:22: if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

- **Matt. 24:31:** he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, & they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- **Luke 18:7:** will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day & night?

2) Paul wrote of God's elect: Rom. 8:33-34: Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

- **Rom. 11:7:** Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened

- **2 Tim. 2:10:** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

3) Peter wrote of God's elect: 1 Pet. 1:1: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion

- **2 Pet. 1:10:** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

d. God unconditionally elects sinners to be saved: V. 2: according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

1) This does not mean God elects those who elect themselves: This does not mean that God looked into the future & saw what kind of person you would be & that you would trust Him & choose Him & then based on your goodness & your choice of Him, He chose you!

That view puts man in the driver's seat, not God! That glorifies man, not God! That magnifies the power & goodness & free will of man! That makes our salvation all about what we have done & how good we are & our choice, not God!

Songs never sung: "How great is my will! Sing with me! How great is my will!"

"My hope is built on nothing less,

Than my free will, & I said yes!

I dare to trust my will's sweet frame,

And wholly lean on free will's name!"

Eph. 2:8-9: For by grace you have been saved through faith. & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2) What about free will? We have a free will to do what we want to do. But we are slaves to what we want to do. We need our "wanters" changed! We need our hearts changed!

- **John 1:12-13:** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to

become children of God, who were born, not of blood **nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man**, but of God.

- **Rom. 9:15-16:** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, & I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **So then it depends not on human will or exertion**, but on God, who has mercy.

- **Prov. 21:1:** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will

3) God's election of us according to His foreknowledge means He sovereignly predestined & intimately knew, loved, & chose us before the foundation of the world according to His eternal, unchanging plan:

- **Gen. 18:19:** (Abraham): I have known him, so that he may command his children & his household after him to keep the way of the Lord. (The large majority of English versions translate this, "I have chosen him.")

- **Ps. 1:6:** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- **Amos 3:2:** You only have I known among all the families of the earth.

- **Matt. 7:23:** I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.

- **1 Pet. 1:19-20:** the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake

- **John Murray:** "Know" . . . is used in a sense practically synonymous with "love" . . . "Whom he foreknow" . . . is therefore virtually equivalent to "whom he foreloved." Foreknowledge, is "sovereign, distinguishing love"

- **R. C. Sproul:** The Reformed view of election, known as unconditional election, means that God does not foresee an action or condition on our part that induces Him to save us. Rather, election rests on God's sovereign decision to save whomever He is pleased to save. **(God loves us because He loves us!)**

Rom. 9:9-24: For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return & Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ & not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born & had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call - ¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, & I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, & that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, & he hardens whomever he wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use & another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath & to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known

the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

4) What about John 3:16?; Acts 13:48: & when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing & glorifying the word of the Lord, & as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

- **Jesus: John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, & whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

- **John 10:26-29:** but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, & I know them, & they follow me. I give them eternal life, & they will never perish, & no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, & no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

- **Matt. 22:14:** For many are called, but few are chosen.

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2. Jesus Christ Is God's Elect, & We Must Be In Him By Faith Alone To Be Saved

- **Isa. 42:1:** Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One *in whom* My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

- **Luke 9:35:** a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One [elect]; listen to him!"

- **1 Pet. 2:6:** For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen [elect] & precious, & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

The Elect of the elect; the Chosen One of all chosen one's – God's perfect, sinless, chosen, elected & beloved Son – He was put to shame & rejected so that we will never be put to shame! He was chosen for the **CROSS!**

- **Luke 23:35:** the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One [elect]!"

Are you one of God's elect? Believe the Gospel!

Eph. 1:3-6: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us **for adoption** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us **in the Beloved**.

- **Eph. 1:11: In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

- **Eph. 1:7: In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses

Luke 10:20-22: do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit & said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise & understanding & revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, & no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son & anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." **(Evangelism)**

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Christ Jesus Is God's Loved Elect
Chosen His Glory To Reflect
True God And Man In Each Aspect
The Devil's Ways He Crushed And Wrecked
He Died As God's Full Wrath Object
Then Rose, Killed Death, Life Resurrect

In Him We're Chosen God's Elect
Beloved Forever Retrospect
You His Child He Won't Reject
Predestined, Loved, He Won't Neglect
He'll Hold You Fast Always Protect
For You Of All He Did Select!