

Question: Who are God's "elect"?

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion (Jewish Christians who were forced to leave their homeland, b), elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied (1Pe 1:1-2).

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Paul to the church of the Thessalonians, chapter 2, verses 13-14).

The Biblical word "elect" carries with it a sense of mystery to many people. They wonder, "Am I one of the elect?" "Has God chosen me to save me?" To be sure, the doctrine of election is very important, but there is really nothing mysterious about it. The gospel record clears up any mystery surrounding the subject. Let us compare the two passages above for a better understanding of "God's elect."

- The elect are a (class of) people chosen by God the Father for salvation.
- God had foreknowledge of the elect from the beginning of time.
- The elect are sanctified (set apart from sin as belonging to God):
  - 1) by the Holy Spirit.
  - 2) by belief in and obedience to the truth.
  - 3) by answering the call of the gospel.
  - 4) by the shedding of Christ's blood.
- The elect will one day obtain "the glory" of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some people will say that election has nothing to do with human choice. They say, "If you are one of the elect, then there is nothing you can do or say that will alter that fact." Friends, isn't that a rather bold assumption on such an important subject? No one questions God's power to know the future and see the outcome of each person's existence, but to say that it is all predetermined is foolish. The Bible teaches that the **truth**, and our response to it, will determine our "election" of God.

- Jesus is the Truth (Jn 14:6).
- His words are truth, they are both spiritual and life giving (Jn 6:63).
- Man is set free from sin by abiding in His truth (Jn 8:32).
- The soul of man is purified by obeying the truth (1Pe 1:22).
- God will only accept worship that is in spirit and truth (Jn 4:24).
- Truth is consistent, thus it is the basis of one faith (Ep 4:5 Ac 6:7 13:8).
- The faith (truth) was once and for all times given to the saints (Jd 3).

The Holy Spirit, by means of the truth of Jesus Christ, sets apart the elect for God's possession (Jn 17:17 1Co 6:11 2Co 6:16-18). As people submit to the Spirit's teaching of truth regarding belief, repentance, confession, baptism to remove sins, and continued faithfulness to Christ, they can know if they are counted among the elect (Jn 8:24 Ac 17:31 Ro 10:10 Ac 2:38 Co 1:10).

How does your life measure up? Please, for your own sake, read the passages given above and challenge your thinking on this subject. It is amazing how clear a Bible subject can become when we read the Word for ourselves. Thanks for reading!