

Today is February 02, 2025

Four Things About The Elect

By Curtis Pugh 1944 - 2018

The Bible teaches election. Some people are called "the elect." Paul wrote of these saying, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory," (2 Timothy 2:10). Election is not salvation. Election is unto salvation. God uses means such as Paul's example and his preaching during sufferings in bringing the elect to salvation.

First: the elect were chosen before the world began. Paul wrote: "According as he [God] hath chosen us [those He planned to save] in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we [the elect] should be holy and without blame before him in love," (Ephesians 1:4). God does not choose sinners because they first chose Him. Election does not mean that God votes for you, the devil votes for you and you cast the deciding vote. This is totally contrary to the Bible! In the first place you were not around when the election was held and, secondly, the devil did not vote. God chose!

Second: election is not based upon any foreseen faith or action of the individuals chosen in order "...that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth," (Romans 9:11). Again, Paul writing about "...the election of grace," continued saying, "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work," (Romans 11:5-6). Election is entirely by grace: a bestowal completely free and unobtainable by any works, deed or act of the sinner.

Third: God's elect cannot be charged with sin. The elect do sin, but, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth," (Romans 8:33). God justifies, i.e. He declares His elect to be righteous in His sight based upon Christ's finished work. Paul goes on to explain: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us [children of god]," (Romans 8:34). The only person that ever had a right to cast stones at sinners was the sinless Christ. But instead of condemning, He died, rose from the grave and is presently enthroned at God's right hand as Priest and Advocate for God's elect.

Fourth: false teachers cannot permanently deceive the elect. Jesus prophesied of a time period filled with false religion, saying, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24:24). "If it were possible" means that it is not possible to deceive the elect! Christ's sheep may be taught error for a time, but they will eventually come to the truth of the Gospel. They were chosen to be saved and shall be saved!

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961*

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Pray for a month old baby boy.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

The value of money.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1

Timothy 6:7

Money is not evil, but God said that peoples love for it is evil. As Christians we must always remember that our life should be filled with pleasing God and not ourselves. And, we must have an understanding that our thirst for money is not pleasing to God. The most pleasing to God is to be content with what God gives us and not thriving to be rich and having much. No person brought anything into this world, we were all born naked. However, some were born into families that had much and never needed much. The life of a Christin is not what we have in life but thriving in the blessings that God has given to us. Life for a believer starts when God saves our soul and begins to bless us with so many blessing that we cannot count them. A Christians downfall is a misunderstanding of what God wants for us; He gives some riches and others He makes poor. Our faith and our way of life is not measured in dollars but in God's blessings. If we allow ourselves to be concerned with money, then that desire will affect our relationship with God and become our evil in life. In a believer's life money should have little value, because if we gain the entire world and lose our souls, then what have we gained? Mark 8:36. All we need in this life is what God blesses us with; therefore, contentment is necessary on our part. The Lord reminds us in Heb. 13:5 *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* God's blessings may include money, or it may not, the Lord may enrich one and not another, that is God's choice and not our need to chase riches. God's blessings are not gauged by riches in money but in God's blessing that He has chosen for you. When money is a person's blessing in life then it brings sorrow, pain, and misery. When people measure their life in dollars they are sinning against God, because some of the most blessed people on earth are poor. The Lord said, *"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil."*

Pastor's Thought Continue.

This is because their love for money separates them from God, it is a lust and what did God say about lust, "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15. Human lust for money will cause a Christian to lose their faith in God because it causes people to do sinful things. God also said in James 4:2 *"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."* If we need, we ask God, we do not forsake God and His commandments to gain money and then call that forsaking God a blessing from God. God will never have His children to disobey Him as a blessing to Him. Remember what God said, *"ye have not, because ye ask not."* Did you ask God for a blessing, and the thing you think is a blessing is it sinful, because if it is, then it is not a blessing from God but of lust. Money is needed in life, but only as a blessing from God. We must learn to add all things and decide did God bless me with this or is it that for which I lust? The Lord said, *"which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* Erring from the faith will only bring sorrow and cause you to be weakened in faith. God reminds us, *"Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."* Psalms 32:10 – 11. If Christians want to be upright in the heart and to shout for joy it is not found in money or worldly things, it is only found in trusting God, standing faithful, and being content with God's blessings. Our walk in this world as believers is not to please ourselves and falsely call it blessings from God, but to ask of God and be content with His gifts, because His gifts will only make us wiser and richer in Him.

Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.

Galatians 5:1 - 5

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."