**Adult Sunday School**January 22, 2012

**Chosen for Special Training**

1Peter 1:1 Peter, **an apostle of Jesus Christ**, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 **Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Elect---ek-lek-tos' select; favorite:--chosen

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

2Ti 2:10 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.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

**1Pe 2:9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1. **Know that You Are the Chosen of God**
   1. Peter is writing to hurting, suffering people who were being persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ. They were forced to leave everything behind: homes, property, estates, businesses, jobs, money, church, friends, and fellow believers.
   2. Peter is writing to Roman provinces where most of the believers had tried to find safety.

Imagine the fear, uncertainty, and insecurity; the wandering about and the searching for a safe place and for a way to earn a living. In some cases, the believers did not even know where their next meal would come from. The church and its dear believers were fleeing for their lives.

Our security is this: knowing that we are saved, that we belong to God and are looked after by God.

The first thing to know about our salvation is this: *know that you are the chosen of God*.

* 1. **Chosen believers are only strangers** **on earth.**

“Chosen” means pilgrim, sojourner, visitor, or exile. The idea is a person is visiting a place for a while, but he is not a permanent resident. Believers are citizens of heaven; their home is in heaven *with God*, not on earth with the rulers of this world.

1. **Election— Foreknowledge of God**:
   1. The chosen are elected by God.
   2. The highest position in all the world, the position of being *God's own holy and beloved children*

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

All Believers are elected to be *holy*-separated or set apart.

All Believers have been elected to be the *beloved* of God.

God has called believers to turn away from the old life that showed hatred toward God, the old life that rejected, rebelled, ignored, denied, and was constantly cursing in the face of God. God has called believers to allow Him to shower His love upon them.

The truths of election and predestination were used by both Paul and Peter to encourage believers when they were suffering great trouble and hardship. These are wonderful truths to encourage us when we have to face the great trials of this world.

. They are elected by the *foreknowledge of God*. What does this mean? Foreknowledge can mean two things.

Foreknowledge means that God sees the future. God has already seen and knows exactly what will happen, every single event and consequence.

Foreknowledge means that God knows exactly what all men will do, every single act and consequence. God has one supreme overall view of all things—past, present, and future.

Foreknowledge does not determine anything to interfere with our will; God has one supreme panoramic view of all things.

Second, foreknowledge means to foreordain, determine, appoint, and predestine.

God did not just foresee the death of Christ, He foreordained it in accordance to man’s will. Peter himself made this point:

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

1Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

The foreknowledge of God is a most wonderful truth for the believer. God is in total control. He not only can foresee all events, He foreordained and controls them—works them all out for good.

Every single event on earth is worked out for good by God.

No matter how much trouble and hardship we suffer, no matter how little we may understand, God knows and will work it all out for our good. Why? Because we are His elect, His holy and beloved people.

The chosen of God are those who are elected according to the foreknowledge of God: elected because He foresees and ordains them to be His holy and beloved people.

2 **Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification** of the Spirit**,** unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1. **Sanctification—**
   1. **The Work of the Holy Ghost**
   2. Chosen-sanctified of the Spirit
   3. Obedient to the Word of God
   4. And covered by the blood of Christ.

What does this mean?

A person can’t be saved anytime he wants and any way he wants. A person can’t just choose a particular time of life to come to God

* A person must be separated from the world by the Holy Spirit of God,
* Set apart unto God; *made holy, pure and righteous*, by obeying the word.
* Covered by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ

He must be convicted that he needs the forgiveness and acceptance of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The only way a person can turn to God and be acceptable to God is by the Holy Spirit. The person must respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when drawn and convicted: he must be sanctified, set apart unto God to live a holy, righteous, and pure life.

The conviction and desire to make the decision can soon leave. The point is forceful: we must respond *immediately* when the Spirit of God works within us. We must make the decision...

To be set apart unto God for salvation and eternal life.

To be set apart unto God to live a life that is totally different from the life we have been living, a life that is holy, righteous, and pure.

The purpose of sanctification is that we might be obedient children to love, fellowship, and commune with Him day by day and to follow instructions He has Chosen for Special Training