

THE COMFORT OF THE ELECTION OF GOD

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Review

- Christians are temporary residents living in a foreign land. This sinful world is not our home, our hope, our future, or our glory.
- Our faith in Jesus gives us different values and different lives. This life of faith is very strange to unbelievers who do not trust in Christ. Our difference will bring us persecution, ridicule, and suffering.

But tonight, Peter leads us to understand how we became strange exiles living in a strange land.

READ 1 Peter 1:1-2

Encouragement and Comfort from being Chosen by God

Election, voting, Obama becoming president. I think that I'll choose to be president... Will that work?

- That is what Peter is trying to tell these Christians suffering for Christ...
- You became Children of God who are strange in this world because God chose you to be, as opposite to the idea that they are by your choice or other men rejecting you.
- I AM YOUR IDENTITY BEGINNING-MIDDLE-END.

Peter immediately & unapologetically calls these Christians elect. *[Doesn't He know its sensitive issue?]*

- What is it? The election of God has a population of one, that vote determines a person's destiny.
- The word "Elect" simple means chosen. The term "chosen" is used throughout Scripture to describe those whom God loves with a special love, not common love. Chosen is a term that reflects deep personal intimacy between God and his children.
- Peter mentions election and predestination of people 4 times in three verses:
 - ELECT, FOREKNEW, SANCTIFIED, and CAUSED
 - BECAUSE, He truly is trying to emphasize the significance of understanding this biblical truth to living out the Christian life faithfully. The entire rest to this book rest on this.

Peter defines our election in 3 phrases: Foreknowledge, sanctification, & Obey/sprinkled (cleansed)

- Foreknow does not just refer to God knowing a fact that occurs in the future.
 - The word "know" is a special word in Scripture that refers to a special relationship of God that is personal, loving, and fatherly,
 - ACTUAL MEANING: According to God's fatherly care for you before the world was made
- Foreknow is the same word used of when Adam and eve had sexual relations. Gen. 4:1, 17. God did the same, he foreknew you and you became one of his children. See Amos 3:2.
- Foreknow actually mean foreordained or fore-planned.
- Foreknowledge, in this passage, is the verb that both knows and makes the chosen sojourners.
- God is the deciding factor in the salvation of everyone of his children.
- **Sanctification**: To set apart by the Spirit

Illustration: Babies being born do not choose their parents; they are helplessly born OF the parents.

- It is our pride and sinful desire to participate and control our destinies that leads us to see the working of God as clearly described in Scripture as detestable and offensive.
- OPPOSITE OF OUR CULTURE, the apostle Peter, unashamedly sees the election of God as what gives us comfort and encouragement in times of difficulty, doubt and suffering, not disdain as it does to so many Christians today.

CONCLUSION

Where is your trust tonight? In something you have done or in what God has done?

- Gods work stands forever, our work is fickle, fooled, and folly – leave us to doubt and peace.

Some here may truly be struggling with doubt wondering if they are truly a Christian and really going to heaven. You pray the prayer of salvation, raise your hand to be saved, go forward at a service (all of these things by the ways are not in the Bible)... Tonight, once for all place your faith in Jesus and repent.

- Live a life following after Jesus, living a different life than the world around us, seeking the Word of God and obeying, trusting Jesus to make you who is promised to. TRUST HIM – NOT YOU!

Tonight, others may struggle with real problems, where from personal sin, friends and peers, or in your family... If you are a Christian, there is real comfort for you.

- No matter what your situation, difficulty, or suffering... you have been chosen by God and ordained to be his child... you are foreknown, near and dear to God with a special love that will not let you go and can not be stripped away from you... and his promise of deliverance from this sinfully strange alien world is guaranteed!