

Know that you are the Chosen of God

1 Peter 1:1 - 2

Text of a Sermon Preached by

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Sermons from 1 Peter

1. Know that You Are the Chosen of God,

1 Peter 1:1-2

Introduction.

Peter is writing to believers people who had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour people who were hurting and suffering, people who were being ridiculed and persecuted because they lived for Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Believers had apparently taken their families and what belongings they could carry and fled for their lives because of the persecution they suffered.

Peter is writing to five Roman provinces where most of the believers had apparently tried to hide and find safety But note how the church is continuing on as an underground church this is fact even today it is in the places where there is most persecution that the church is growing most.

- ❖ The believers desperately needed strong encouragement But how? How do you shore up and strengthen a person who is suffering and hurting so much?..... How can a person be secure through suffering and persecution?

There is only one way he must know that he is saved and be absolutely sure that he is under the care and love of God This is the discussion of the first section of First Peter.

It clearly tells us how to be secure through suffering 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. (1:1) The chosen are believers, believers who are only strangers scattered over the earth.

This is the descriptive picture being painted in 1 Peter 1:1. Believers are only strangers on earth The word means pilgrim, sojourner, visitor, or exile.

The idea is that of a person 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.

This is significant; it means two things:

1. It means that where we live on this earth does not matter all that much. No matter where we live, it is not our permanent home Our home is in heaven.

- ❖ We may be forced to leave our homes and countries because of trouble and persecution we may be poor and suffer great hardship in this life, but it is only for a brief time We are only strangers and pilgrims on earth.

We shall soon be called to go home to go to our permanent home in heaven and be there forever and ever And there shall be no hunger or poverty or suffering or hardship in heaven.

2. It means that we should keep our eyes and minds...

- ❖ Focused upon heaven as our permanent home.
- ❖ Focused upon how short life is.
- ❖ Focused upon how uncertain, insecure, and short-term all things upon earth really are.

2. (1:2) The chosen are elected by God.

They are actually called the elect, a people who had been elected or chosen by God This means a most wonderful thing It means that believers have the highest position in the entire world, the position of being God's own holy and beloved children.

a. Believers have been elected to be holy. The word "*holy*" means separated or set apart God called believers out of the world and away from the old life it offered, the old life of sin and death.

- ❖ He called believers to be separated and set apart unto Himself and the new life He offers, the new life of righteousness and eternity.

b. 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 be the beloved of God, the persons who receive His love in Christ Jesus and who allow Him to shower His love upon them.

If God loves believers this much enough to actually choose and elect them to be His very own holy and beloved people then God will look after and take care of them.

- ❖ No matter how ridiculed, abused, and persecuted no matter how poor, hungry, troubled, and distressed no matter how great the hardship God will meet the need of the dear believer the one whom He has elected to be His own.

Note one other point: how believers are elected. They are elected by the foreknowledge of God What does this mean?

Foreknowledge can mean two things.

FIRST, foreknowledge means that God sees the future. No matter how far a person looks into the future, God has already seen it. God knows...

- ❖ Exactly what will happen, every single event and consequence?
- ❖ Exactly what could happen (but will not), every single possibility and its consequences.

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 all things past, present, and future.

But note: in this meaning foreknowledge does not determine anything it only faces and forecasts what shall be.

It is somewhat like an astronomer who can foresee the exact position and size of the moon on the first day of the month He knows the future because He foresees the events that will take place with the moon between now and then.

But God goes further because He has one supreme panoramic view of all things past, present, and future.

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

This is definitely the meaning in 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."

- ❖ God did not just foresee the death of Christ, He foreordained it Peter himself makes this point:

"[Christ] who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (1 Peter 1:20).

- ❖ 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 can foreordain and control them work them all out for good.

Just imagine! Every single event on earth is worked out for good by God He works the events out for His people 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?**..... Well because we are His elect ... His holy and beloved people.

The chosen of God are those who are elected according to His good pleasure God elected them and ordained them to be His holy and beloved people before the foundation of the world

3. (1:2) The chosen are sanctified by the Holy Spirit and covered by the blood of Christ.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? It means that a person cannot be saved anytime he wants and any way he wants It means that a person cannot just choose some event or some particular time of life to come to God.

Two things are absolutely necessary for a person to be saved and to receive eternal life.

FIRST, a person must be sanctified by the Holy Spirit of God. To be sanctified means to be set apart unto God; to be made holy, pure and righteous unto God.

- ❖ Before a person can come to God, he must be attracted and pulled to God he must be convicted that he should turn to God.
- ❖ He must be convicted that he needs the forgiveness and acceptance of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ And this is the reason a man must turn to God when he feels the conviction of sin and his great need for God.

This conviction is the Holy Spirit working within him struggling to set the man's life apart unto God to save him and to give him eternal life.

The Holy Spirit wants every one of us to be God's; to be set apart unto God, living holy, righteous, and pure lives and He wants us living with God forever and ever throughout all eternity.

But remember what is stated above: a person cannot just turn to God by himself, by following some earthly religion or some earthly way to God 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 the Holy Spirit draws and convicts him he must be sanctified set apart unto God to live a holy, righteous, and pure life.

Thought: This stresses the utter necessity of responding to the Spirit of God when we feel Him working within our hearts All of us have sensed Him convicting us and we have delayed making a decision.

Remember what happened? His conviction left us. He spoke to us, convicted and pulled us to make the decision, but we pushed it aside and said, "Later." And He left us The conviction and desire to make the decision was soon gone.

The point is forceful: we must respond and respond immediately when the Spirit of God works within us.

Note the end or purpose of sanctification: that we might be obedient to God The one thing God wants is the same thing that any good father wants: obedient children.

- ❖ God wants us to love, fellowship, and commune with Him day by day and to follow His instructions God knows and understands life, for He created life Therefore, He wants the very best for all of us.

This is the reason He has done so much to save us. His whole purpose the very end toward which He has done all is to lead us to a life of obedience.

Obedying God is the only way we can know a full and complete life Therefore, obedience is the purpose and end of sanctification.

SECOND, a person must be sprinkled or covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. What does this mean? It means to be justified by His blood The apostle Paul reminds us in Romans:

"Much more than, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9).

We have broken the law of God We have neglected God, ignored God, cursed God, rebelled against God, and rejected God We have chosen to live like we want, to do our own thing, and we have refused to live like God says.

Therefore, we stand before the law of God guilty. As with all law, we must bear...

- ❖ the penalty of the law
- ❖ the judgment of the law
- ❖ the condemnation of the law
- ❖ the punishment of the law
- ❖ the wrath of the law

We stand before the wrath of God His law, His justice and there is no escape We have broken the law of God; therefore, the penalty has to be paid.

But this is the glorious gospel: Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for us He has stepped forth and offered His life as a substitute and sacrifice for us He has borne the judgment and condemnation of our transgression.

- ❖ How could He do this? Because He was the Son of God and He lived a perfect and sinless life when He was upon earth He stood before God as the Perfect and Ideal Man, as the Ideal Righteousness that could cover all men.

Consequently, when He died on the cross, His death was the perfect and ideal sacrifice for sins His blood—the blood He shed for us—was the perfect and ideal sacrifice for transgressions Therefore, His blood can cover us and all of our transgressions.

- ❖ This is the way we are saved and the way we receive eternal life this is the way we are made acceptable to God by being sprinkled or covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The blood of Jesus Christ covers all our transgressions and makes us guiltless before God perfect and acceptable to Him.

This is the chosen of God a people chosen to come to God by being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ, God's dear Son.

4. (1:2) The chosen are the people who obey God.

The only kind of faith that really saves a person is the kind of faith that is obedient that diligently seeks God Believing faith is obedient faith.

- ❖ A person who really believes in Christ, who really trusts the blood of Christ to cover his transgressions, is the one who obeys Christ.

This is exactly what Scripture says.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

Now, note the verse: the very end or purpose of sanctification is that we might be obedient to God God wants us to follow His Word and its instructions.

- ❖ **WHY?.....** Well because God knows and understands life God created and made life; therefore, He knows exactly how life has to be lived in order to get the most out of it.

God is God and He is a God of love; consequently He wants the very best for us This is the reason He has done so much to save us this is the reason He has given us His Word and its instructions.

- ❖ His whole purpose ... the very end toward which He has done all ... is to lead us to a life of obedience.

Obedying God is the only way we can know a full and complete life.

Thought: This means a most significant thing: the persons who are truly chosen by God are those who are obeying God.

It does not matter to which church or denomination (if any) a person may belong What matters is obedience is the person obeying God?

Is he truthfully believing and trusting, surrendering and casting his life upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His blood to cleanse him from all transgressions?

5. (1:2) The chosen are people who experience grace and peace.

1. Grace means the undeserved favour and blessings of God. The word undeserved is the key to understanding grace.

Man does not deserve God's favour; he cannot earn God's approval and blessings God is too high and man is too low for man to deserve anything from God.

- ❖ Man is imperfect and God is perfect; therefore, man cannot expect anything from God Man has reacted against God too much.

Man deserves nothing from God except judgment, condemnation, and punishment But God is love—perfect and absolute love.

Therefore, God makes it possible for man to experience His grace, in particular the favour and blessing of salvation which is in His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. Peace means to be bound, joined, and weaved together. It means to be assured, confident, and secure in the love and care of God It means to have a sense, a consciousness, a knowledge that God will...

- ❖ Provide ... guide ... strengthen ... sustain ... deliver ... encourage ... save ... give life, real life both now and forever

A person can experience true peace only as he comes to know Jesus Christ Only Christ can bring peace to the human heart the kind of peace that brings deliverance and assurance to the human soul.