

“As the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved”

1Peter 1:1-2

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- “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 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.”

1Peter 1:1-2

- We are made “elect” by three things:
 - The eternal plan of God the Father,
 - The influence and agency of the Holy Spirit,
 - The self-offering of Jesus Christ.
- We become “elect” by choosing to respond in obedience to the Gospel.

Col. 3:12-15

- “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

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- Peter describes Christians in conflicting terms:
 - “Pilgrims of the Dispersion” implying that Christians are strangers and foreigners sojourning in a land not their own, scattered about like seed.
 - Though we are strangers in the world, we are God’s elect.

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- The word “elect” simply means chosen.
 - 1Peter 2:9-10 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”
- What does it mean to be God’s chosen people?

We Become Elect Through God's Predetermined Plan

- “Foreknowledge” comes from “prognosis,” meaning “forethought or pre-arrangement.”
- “Their election and salvation was in accordance with God’s predetermined purpose to save men through the Gospel, and hence, according to foreknowledge.” (*B. W. Johnson, People’s NT Commentary*)

We Become Elect Through God's Predetermined Plan

- God planned it before the world began.
 - Eph. 1:4-5 - “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”
 - Eph. 2:10 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

We Become Elect Through God's Predetermined Plan

- Is this election individual or corporate?
- Election by God is general, not particular; corporate, not individual; the church as a whole, not individual members by special selection; the second would make God a respecter of persons. He is the “Savior of the Body.”
- Still, individuals must be diligent to make their calling and election sure; that is, they must be diligent to be faithful members of the body of the saved.
 - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure.”

We Become Elect Through The Sanctification Of The Spirit

- Sanctification is the process by which we are set apart for God's purpose, accomplished by the Holy Spirit.
 - Rom. 15:16 - “That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”
 - 1Cor. 6:11 - “Such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”
 - 2Thes. 2:13 - “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.”

We Become Elect Through The Sanctification Of The Spirit

- The Holy Spirit accomplishes our sanctification through the Word of God.
 - John 16:12-13 - “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

We Become Elect Through The Sanctification Of The Spirit

- John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
- 2Thes. 2:13-14 - “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, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We Become Elect By The Blood Of Christ

- Rev. 1:5 - “Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”
- Acts 2:38 - “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

We Become Elect By The Blood Of Christ

- 1John 1:7-9 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We Become And Remain Elect By Obedience

- God's chosen are expected to be obedient.
 - Eph. 2:10 - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

We Become And Remain Elect By Obedience

- Obedience is taught by grace.
 - Titus 2:11-14 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

We Become And Remain Elect By Obedience

- We must be diligent in good works.
 - Titus 3:1, 5, 8, 14 - “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work... 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit... 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men... 14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”

We Become And Remain Elect By Obedience

- We must strive to maintain our holy condition.
 - 1Peter 1:13-16 - “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy.”

“As the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved”

- We are God’s chosen people, made His elect by:
 - God’s eternal plan,
 - The Holy Spirit setting us apart,
 - Jesus Christ cleansing us from our sins,
 - Our obedient response to these things.