

## THE ELECT OF GOD

There is much misunderstanding among religions with regard to God's "elect" or "chosen" people. The word simply means those specially picked or gathered out of a group. Israel was God's chosen nation under the Law of Moses, but in the Christian dispensation Christians are the Israel of God.

Let me be bold to state that God **does not** arbitrarily select certain folks to go to Heaven or Hell. Man is a free moral agent with the ability to **choose** whether to travel the narrow path that leads to eternal life or the wide road that leads to eternal damnation (cf. Matt. 7:13-14).

There are many Bible verses that emphasize the "elect" of God. Jesus taught, "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect*" (Matt. 24:24). Paul comforted the Roman brethren by asking, "*Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth*" (Rom. 8:33). To the brethren at Colossae Paul wrote, "*Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering*" (Col. 3:12). The apostle Peter said of Christians, "*But ye are a elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (1 Peter 2:9).

We do not deny that the truth contained in these verses nor do we deny that there are those who are indeed the elect of God. We are appalled, however, at the tremendous amount of Calvinistic error believed regarding God's elect. Let us remember that the grand plan of redemption was in place before the world had its beginning. The apostle Paul says to the Ephesians, "*even*

*as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love: having foreordained us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ unto himself, according to the good pleasure of his will*" (Eph. 1:4-5). To the Romans Paul declares: "*For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren: and whom he foreordained, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified*" (Rom. 8:29-30).

One must make sure that he understands **whom** it is that God has chosen! It is those who are willing to be **obedient** to the will of God. This is the great truth taught in Hebrews 5:8-9: "*though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation*" (Heb. 5:8-9).

**Our election is not unconditional!** No man can save himself without God, but man must do something to receive the salvation God's grace makes available. To those on Pentecost Peter instructed, "*...Save yourselves from this crooked generation*" (Acts 2:40). When those on Pentecost specifically asked what to do to be saved Peter replied, "*Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38). Christ clearly depicts two conditions of salvation when he says, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned*" (Mark 16:16). Why do so many prefer to believe man-made lies and reject the simple truths of the Bible?

God would become a respecter of persons if the process of election were unconditional. Think about it! If

God selects some to be saved and some to be lost, He condemns Himself by His own Word. The apostle Peter teaches, "*Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him*" (Acts 10:34-35). The apostle Paul affirms this same truth, saying, "*for there is no respect of persons with God*" (Rom. 2:11).

Commenting on Rom. 8:29-30 in reverse order, Guy N. Woods states:

"Whom did Jehovah glorify? Those whom he justified. Whom did he call? Those whom he purposed to be conformed to the image of his Son. Whom did he purpose so to conform? Those whom he foreknew. Whom did he foreknow? Those whom he called. By what means did he call? The gospel. To whom did he direct the gospel? To the whole world (Mark 16:15-16). To whom were the blessings of the gospel given? To those who obeyed it (2 Thess. 1:9; 1 John 2:4).

Thus, God **calls** us through the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14). One's obedience to **the gospel** (Gal. 1:6-9) will save his soul and make him a member of **the** Lord's church (Acts 2:47). Anyone can become one of God's elect if he will renounce the world and "*put on Christ*" (Gal. 3:27).

**Marvin Weir from Bonham St. Beacon**

**Saturday Bible Study Seminar**

**"Great Bible Words"**

**November 15 – 9:30 \* 10:30 \* 11:30 AM**  
**39th Street Church of Christ**

## ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Monica Nemechek, 11-04.

## BIRTHDAY

Paula Stillwell, 10-31.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM).

Steve Brown fractured his finger. Melissa Cole broke her wrist. Barbara James is recovering from her surgery. Tina Pflugardt is recovering from her surgery at home. Tom Tucker was hospitalized in Eldon, MO for a few days.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was out of town last weekend on business. Chris Edwards was out of town last week on business.

## RESPONSE

Jared Nelson responded to the invitation on Tuesday night and asked for forgiveness. We are thankful for his courage and honesty.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Chuck Northrop will be our guest speaker this Sunday and will give us a report of his work. We welcome Chuck and Jody to Olathe!

## MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held on November 9 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 51; Sunday PM, 40; Wednesday PM, 41.

## Those To Serve

November 2, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

### MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson  
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas  
OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson  
PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek  
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter  
ASSIST..... Dave Parish  
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher

### EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson  
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards  
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

### WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson  
INVITATION ..... John Cody Carter

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: [olathecoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olathecoc@sbcglobal.net)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

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