**1 Peter: Aliens who are Chosen, Pt 3**

*1 Peter 1:1-2*

**Context**

Peter begins the epistle with the comforting words to these aliens scattered throughout Asia Minor that they are chosen of God. They needed to be reminded that although they were rejected by the world, they were indeed chosen of God, holy and beloved. That though can help us endure much in life. Peter’s pastoral epistle is to comfort persecuted believers with the positional truth of who they are in Christ.

**The features of God’s election**

1. **The condition**

**1 Peter 1:1a***—Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*

1. *Those who reside as aliens*
2. *Scattered throughout* various locations
3. **Point:** although they were rejected by society and treated harshly in these regions, they can face extreme persecution in triumphant hope
4. **The essence**

**1 Peter 1:1b***—…who are chosen*

1. Chosen (eklektos)—picked out, chosen
   1. That was true for Israel in the OT
   2. That is the pattern in the Scripture
   3. It is true of the NT saints
2. Done by God’s sovereign purpose and grace
3. **The source: the foreknowledge of God**

**1 Peter 1:2a***—according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*

1. Foreknowledge (prognosis)—forethought, pre-arrangement
2. His foreknowledge in choosing is independent of any person or circumstance
   1. It is not based on individual choice
   2. It is not based on individual (or collective) circumstances
3. Some believe “foreknowledge” here means “foresight.” That is, knowing before in the sense that God, because of His omniscience, knows who will believe and then elects those that will otherwise make that choice on their own
   1. Additional reference to the word in **v20** for Christ’s crucifixion could not mean that God backed into the atonement because He saw that it was going to happen

**1:18-20**—knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19**but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. **20***For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you*

1. **The means: by the sanctifying work of the Spirit**

**1 Peter 1:2b***—… by the sanctifying work of the Spirit*

1. The sanctifying work of the Spirit in salvation sets us apart
2. The work of the Spirit then takes the elect and is realized at the moment of conversion
3. That work began salvation and is a process of purification that goes on until we see Jesus Christ face to face

**Ephesians 1:4**—*just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love*

**Ephesians 4:1**—*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,*

1. **The purpose: to obey Jesus Christ**

**1 Peter 1:2c***—to obey Jesus Christ*

1. The work of the Spirit is done so as to obey Christ
2. He redeemed; we obey

**Ephesians 2:10***—For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

1. The evidence of salvation is demonstrated by our obedience
2. Salvation is lived out in a life of obedience

**1 Timothy 6:3***—If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness*

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-10***—We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;****3****constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,****4****knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;****5****for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.****6****You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,****7****so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.****8****For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.****9****For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,****10****and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*

**How may I know my election?** –Arthur W Pink

1. By the Word of God having come in divine power to the soul, so that my self-complacency is shattered and my self-righteousness is renounced.
2. By the Spirit’s having convicted me of my woeful, guilty, and lost condition.
3. By having had revealed to me the suitability and sufficiency of Christ to meet my desperate case, and by a divinely given faith, causing me to lay hold of and rest upon Him as my only hope.
4. By the marks of the new nature within me.  A love for God, an appetite for spiritual things, a longing for holiness, a seeking after conformity to Christ.
5. By the resistance which the new nature makes to the old, causing me to hate sin and loathe myself for it.
6. By avoiding everything which is condemned by God’s Word and by sincerely repenting of and humbly confessing every transgression. Failure at this point will most surely and quickly bring a dark cloud over our assurance, causing the Spirit to withhold his witness.
7. By giving all diligence to cultivate the Christian graces, and using all legitimate means to this end, thus the knowledge of election is cumulative.
8. **The eternal security: and be sprinkled with His blood**

**1 Peter 1:2d***—and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*

1. Notice the order of Peter’s comments
   1. Condition: Aliens
   2. Elect/chosen
   3. According to the foreknowledge of God
   4. By the sanctifying work of the Spirit (regeneration)
   5. To obey Jesus
   6. …and be sprinkled with His blood (an act consequent to regeneration)
2. The security for the believer (Cf. **John 6:37-40**)
3. The metaphor looks back at the OT sprinkling of blood on the *people of Israel*
   1. A Leper sprinkled with the blood of a bird (**Leviticus 14:6**)
   2. Aaron and his sons sprinkled with the blood of a ram(**Leviticus 8; Exodus 29***)*
   3. *The only other time was the sprinkling of blood on the people (once, but mentioned twice in the NT)*

**Exodus 24:3-8***—Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!”****4****Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar [*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ex%2024&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-2182b)*]at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.****5****He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord.****6****Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.****7****Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”****8****So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”*

**Hebrews 9:19-20***—For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,****20****saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.”*

**12:24***—and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

1. In ancient times, when two people made a covenant, it was usually cut in blood—blood was placed usually on both parties
2. The covenant (and the blood sprinkled) on the people was that they would obey God’s word
3. The blood sprinkled on the alter symbolized God’s commitment to faithfulness—He would forgive their sin
4. Point: Elect believers were saved by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, making their past election a present reality. They were brought into a covenant with God that was sealed by blood. it was provided in the New Covenant: forgiveness of sins through the atonement, but also a sprinkling of blood for a covenant of obedience.
5. The shed blood of Christ on our behalf acts like a seal to the new covenant

(Cf. **Exodus 24:8)**

1. The Lord’s supper instituted

**Matthew 26:27-28**—*And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you;****28****for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.*

1. When believers are sprinkled with His blood, they enter into a covenant of obedience

**Acts 5:31-32**—[Peter in response to the Council] *He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.****32****And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.*

**Point:** when you were set apart by the Holy Spirit, you were set apart to God for a life of obedience sealed in the blood of Christ.  Obedience is inseparable from sprinkling of blood.[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. **As a result: may grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure**

**1 Peter 1:2e***—May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*

1. This is a salutation like many others in the NT

(**Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; Galatians 1:3; Phil 1:2,** etc)

1. Peter is wishing these scattered aliens all the best that God can offer them and that it would continue to the fullest degree
2. These blessings of grace and peace come because they were God’s elect
3. Believers through all generations need to think of the blessed nature and advantages of being part of His chosen rather than denying or ignoring

**The Advantages of Election** –John MacArthur

1. It is the most humbling truth in all of scripture. For beliers is to realize they had absolutely nothing to do with God’s choice of them.

**John 1:12-13**—*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,****13****who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

**Romans 9:16***—So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

It crushes our moral and religious pride.

**1 Peter 5:5***—You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

1. Election is a God-exalting, worship-enhancing doctrine because it gives all the glory to Him.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**—*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;****9****not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

1. It produces ultimate joy. Those whom God chooses rejoice because they know they would have no hope for salvation apart from His electing grace.

**John 6:44***—**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

**Acts 4:12***—And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”*

1. It promises Christians an eternity of spiritual privileges.

(**Ephesians 1:3-14; Cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10**)

1. It is a powerful incentive to holy living. God has set them apart because of His own special love for them is a most effective motivation for believers to live to the glory of God.

**Colossians 3:12-14**—*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;****13****bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.****14****Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

“Nothing under the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit can make a Christian more holy than the thought that he is chosen.  ‘Shall I sin,’ he says, ‘after God has chosen me?  Shall I transgress after such love?  Shall I go astray after so much loving kindness and tender mercy?  Nay, my God.  Since thou hast chosen me, I will love thee, I will live to thee, I will give myself to thee to be thine forever, solemnly consecrating myself to thy service.’” –Charles Spurgeon

**Conclusion**

As with any doctrine in the Scriptures, it is not to be ignored or altered. In so doing, we fail to give God glory for who He is and what He has done. He is to receive all glory—including His work of salvation toward unworthy sinners.

Just as it was true for the original recipients of this letter, we need to understand the enormous grace He has provided.

**Psalm 19:7-9**—*The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.* ***8****The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.* ***9****The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.*

1. John MacArthur [↑](#footnote-ref-2)