2Thess #115

God has chosen you from the beginning.

We will be doing the Lord’s Supper at the end of the message, please be prepared.

Our current study in 2Thessalonians chapter 2 has us anchored on verse 13.

/2Thes 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters* beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.\

You can open in 2Timothy chapter 2 RF.

We looked at a heart of thanksgiving last lesson. And how, through application of Bible Doctrine, and the problem-solving devices, we can see a need to grow into having an attitude of gratitude.

Thanksgiving toward God and then toward yourself and other Bels is important to understand.

Now we are about to embark on a short series in relation to election.

The doctrine of election is often skewed by many pulpits. I am not here to try and correct another pastor, or throw a shadow upon any denomination.

Yet, I am here to teach you what the scriptures point to.

Also, where God the HS has led me in this doctrine. It is actually not complicated; the choice is either Unlimited Atonement or limited Atonement.

You either realize the Bible teaches us about free will, as well as the justice and righteousness of GOD.

Or all of that is completely twisted in your concepts of scripture.

 REPEAT

You are free to believe what you want just make sure all of your doctrinal beliefs align properly.

/If the doctrine of election points to GOD choosing some people for salvation while condemning others, this nullifies free will as the Bible teaches. If God condemns certain human beings before they were born or even given an opportunity to believe upon Christ, this also throws into question the justice and righteousness of God. God is eternal and there is almost no teacher or scholar, who would deny GOD has established everything in eternity past. Therefore, you reach a crossroads at the doctrine of election and predestination.\

All members of the human race are potentially elected to the plan of God.

This potential election is the doctrine of unlimited atonement we can note in 2Timothy 2:10.

When Christ hung upon the cross the sins of the entire world were poured out upon Him and judged. So, right from the start - if you believe in LIMITED Atonement, then the cross did not pay for the sins of the entire world.

Only the chosen people are saved…?

/1Jhn 2:2 and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and **not for ours only**, but also **for *the sins of* the whole world.**

1Jhn 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent **the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.\**

What about the issue of faith alone in Christ alone…is that limited to certain people?

/Rom 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation in His blood through faith**. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God’s *merciful* restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; 26for the demonstration, *that is,* of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus**.\

THE ONE who has faith…anyone.

/Jhn 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**! (Jhn 4:42)

2Cor 5:19 namely, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,** not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.\

Election points to the fact that all of the human race is potentially elected. This is the fairness of the justice of God. Christ did not die for the elect, Christ died for all members of the human race.

 REPEAT

/2Tim 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen **from the dead** (*nekros)*, descendant of David, according to my gospel,

Written in a Genitive Plural – meaning more than one, Christ died a spiritual separation (death) for all mankind. Jesus died physically, fulfilling prophecy and enabling resurrection for all Bels.\

NECK-AH-ROS, it is written very subtly to point out more than one death.

Once salvation was complete and the sins of the world were judged through TLJC – then Jesus offered up HIS humanity to physical death.

The Apostle Paul says, MY GOSPEL –There is a dual meaning introduced by Paul here.

All God’s promises to Israel are going to be fulfilled, and at the same time evangelism goes on into the CA. The two work together under the divine genius of God without one hindering the other.

Christ had to die on the cross, that didn’t change the Davidic covenant. The Davidic covenant will be fulfilled at the second advent, that in turn does not hinder evangelism during the CA.

By the way – why do we need to emphasize evangelism if some are chosen and some are rejected by God in eternity past?

[2Ti 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/2/9/s_1127009) for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

/[2Ti 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/2/10/s_1127010) For this reason **I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen** (*eklektos*), so that **they also may obtain the salvation** which is in Christ Jesus and with *it* eternal glory.

Election, to be chosen or to be favored. Within the same sentence, it tells us, THEY MAY OBTAIN salvation!?\

ECK-LAY-TOS, means election – chosen, used over 20x in the NT.

Why is there a need to use the term - *they may obtain salvation*, if we know for a fact, they were already chosen in eternity past?

Certainly, GOD in HIS omniscient and omnipotence, knew they would obtain salvation.

Are there a few of the chosen ones in eternity past that are going to surprise GOD?

[2Ti 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/2/11/s_1127011) The statement is trustworthy:For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

Once in union with Christ you share in everything with Jesus Christ.

The simple theological truth is - Christ was elected in eternity past, according to Isaiah 42:1; 1Peter 2:4-6.

Turn to 1Peter chapter 2.

/Isa 42:1 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; **My chosen one** (*bāḥîr*) in *whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

To be chosen or elected. God the Son is the only person elected by God the Father. We are elected because we are in union with Christ; we share His election. \

BACH-AIR, means the same thing as election in the NT Greek.

Election for the Believer means to share the election of Christ and the destiny of Christ.

The letters from the Apostle Peter came from his visit into Rome where he ended up jailed and finally martyred.

The Apostle Paul had already been through Rome once to establish a church.

By the way many of the founders of the early church of Christ, including the apostles, called Rome – Babylon.

This was probably around 63 or 64 A.D. and Nero was already on the warpath against Christians. This was probably before the famous fire in Rome, that was blamed upon Christians.

There was already great pressure on the early church of Jesus Christ and the apostles were considered criminals by many leaders, Jews and Romans.

The Apostle Peter is now building up the followers of Christ with great teaching.

/1Pet 2:4 And coming **to Him as to a living stone** which has been rejected by people, but **is choice** (*eklektos*) and precious in the sight of God,

God knew in eternity past the majority of the Jews would reject their MESSIAH. Yet HE always gave them ample opportunities. Christ is the living stone (ROCK) who was chosen, elected.\

ECK-CLAY-TOS, the chosen one, the elected or favored ONE.

The Apostle Peter is clearing speaking about the only chosen one – TLJC!

[1Pe 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/5/s_1153005) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

All Believers are the little chips off the large stone, Jesus Christ – at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone, you entered an everlasting union with HIM.

The Apostle Peter is repeating a doctrine he learned 30 years earlier which is seen in Matthew chapter 16.

LIVING STONES - is written in a present tense, all BELS continue forward in union with Christ, it can not be taken from you!

/[1Pe 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/6/s_1153006) For *this* is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I AM LAYINGIN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

The choice stone is chosen or elected by GOD in eternity past. (Isa 28:16) – notice anyone, who believes will not be put to shame.\

Isa 28:16 - TLJC is called a tested stone, (*bōḥan – BO-HAND)* one who was already examined and passed the judicial process with flying colors. ONE meaning a single and special one who is TLJC.

 REPEAT

Just as the original Hebrew in Isa 28:16 states… anyone who believes (*'āman- AHH-MAN)* written in the hiphil stem, meaning faith and trust…to believe upon.

Both the Hebrew in Isaiah and the Apostle Peter’s writing here in the Greek (*pisteuō – PISS-TO-OH)* say the exact same thing.

 REPEAT

[1Pe 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/7/s_1153007) This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers,

“A STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE,”

The word precious used is actually a Greek word that speaks to nobility, a priceless or precious one, destined for royalty.

A cornerstone in the ancient world and it is still prevalent today as well…brings two walls together, it is the anchor for a building.

The chief cornerstone is set first.

All four walls in a building depend upon a properly installed corner stone.

The Age of Israel therefore is bridged and connected by Christ the cornerstone into the Church Age.

TLJC brings all dispensations together.

All Bels are intricate stones in the construction of HIS - STORY.

[1Pe 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/2/8/s_1153008) and,“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;*for* they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.

Don’t let the word appointed fool you Royal family.

A great deal of the lesson here is the Apostle Peter teaching a wake-up call to any Unbelievers… especially those of the Jewish bloodline.

/It was God’s will and God’s provision for everyone to be saved-

Rom 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at *the* right time **Christ died for the ungodly**.

1Tim 2:6 who **gave Himself as a ransom for all,** the testimony given at the proper time.\

/1Tim 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is **the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers**.

2Cor 5:14-19, Titus 2:11, Heb 2:9, 1Jhn 2:2 - All of these passages teach that the entire human race was appointed into salvation.\

The unbeliever through their own volition, their own free will, Jews and Gentiles fails to keep the appointment offered to them in 1Pet 4:8; they have rejected the person and work of Christ.

God knows everyone and all decisions from eternity past, it is called the Divine Decree. God simply looks down the corridors of time and knows who would accept and who would reject the offer of salvation.

God elected everyone for the appointment - many do not accept that appointment.

Let us prepare for the Lord’s Supper as we close this for today and we will finish this next message.

Let me read from Hebrews 12 in reference to what all Bels, not just the apostles…but all Bels should be focused on.

/Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Every dispensation is on display in the angelic conflict. Every Bel is called into duty and they become a witness and soldier within the spiritual conflict.\

/Heb 12:2 Looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

WE are the joy set before HIM! Our LORD knew in eternity past, many would not only reject HIM but mock HIM.\

Our Lord Jesus Christ knows rejection and ridicule beyond anything you or I have ever endured.

He went to the cross beaten and half dead to complete the payment for sins and open the doorway to eternal security for everyone ever born.

Though many mock and reject HIS offer and HIS work and HE knew from eternity past it would be that way…Jesus Christ completed the mission. HE endured all the hate and abuse to the point of spiritual and physical death.

TLJC did that for all mankind and knowing many sons and daughters would come forth from this. It gave HIM joy in the face of unimaginable pain, suffering and humiliation.

Jhn 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

I ask that we bring our Lord and Savior into remembrance.

On the night HE was betrayed, Jesus Christ took the bread and broke it.

Giving thanks, HE said this is MY body I offer to you. Take and eat.

In remembrance of our LORD let us eat the bread.

In the same manner, Our Lord took the cup, lifting it up HE gave thanks.

Saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.

For as often as you eat the bread and drink the cup you will bring ME into remembrance until I return.

Let us drink the cup.

Let us pray….amen.