

Open to 1 Peter 1, verse 2

elect according to the  
foreknowledge of God the  
Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

1



Let's begin today by playing a little  
word association game.

I will say a word, or two – then I want  
you to consider how these words make  
you feel. Again, the key is not just  
thinking of another related word – but  
the feelings that these words bring up.  
Got it?

Chocolate, cookies, candy  
Coffee or hot tea  
Friends, family  
Christmas  
Annual performance evaluation

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foreknowledge of God the  
Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Around the room, if you did this with  
me, different responses to the same  
words...mean different things to us...  
Lets try just a few more....

2



elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Looking for complete honesty here. Not out loud – but to self, even make a note if you are doing so. What is your response to these words? What feelings arise?

Hold that....will come back to it

This morning as continue our study in 1 Peter...come to a verse the deals directly with these very things – elect according to the foreknowledge of God

For some – confusing, key and even controversial verse...need to focus on today. First, background



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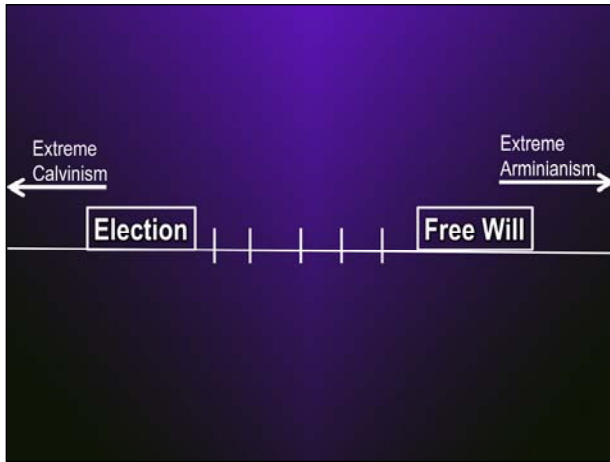
*(1 Peter 1:2)*

As we tackle this verse...part of it, we need some background. To do so we are going to deal with two theological concepts – election and free will

Many know right of the bat – huge, controversial throughout ages  
 For some – well versed  
 For some – new to you  
 For some – interested  
 For some – you are not  
 For some – open and exploring  
 For some – solid in your beliefs, and I am ok with that.  
 Yet for all...call you to consider

As deal with this – deal with two theological positions – Sometimes called Calvinism and Arminianism

Get these titles from two men – John Calvin and Jacob Arminian.  
 Called other things as well – Augustinianism, Sovereign Grace, Doctrines of grace on one hand  
 Responsibility, choice and sometimes even evangelicalism (not entirely)



The issue is the nature of our salvation – God’s choice or ours

As we consider these, understand this, not a choice between one or the other...the discussion, debate and study – wide differences.

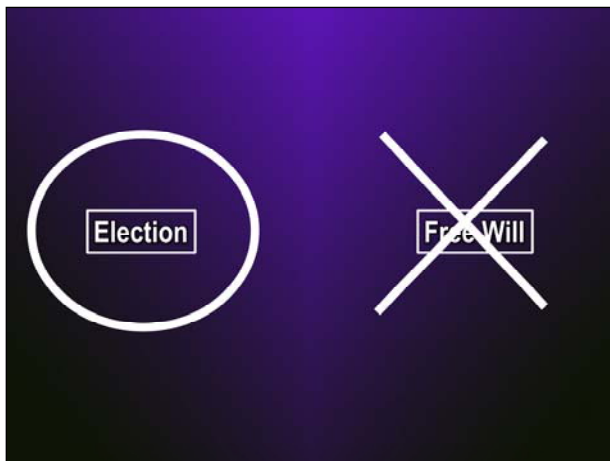
Some we would call Extreme or Hypercalvism. They might now. Other side Extreme Arminianism, pelagian theory, open Theism – which most Arminians reject

Then in between these two – tons of positions – 5 point Calvinism, 4 point Calvinism, moderate Calvinism, moderate Arminianism and more

In one sense, because in reality the positions are so varied, it makes it hard to discuss clearly.

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*



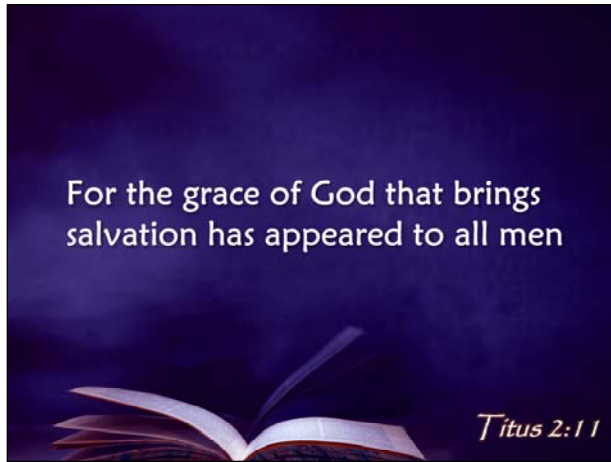
Yet, to approach our verse today, we are going to oversimplify it.

There are those – who hold to a position that it is all Election, all God’s choice – and thus ultimately we have no choice.

Yet...I put to you...that cannot be...

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

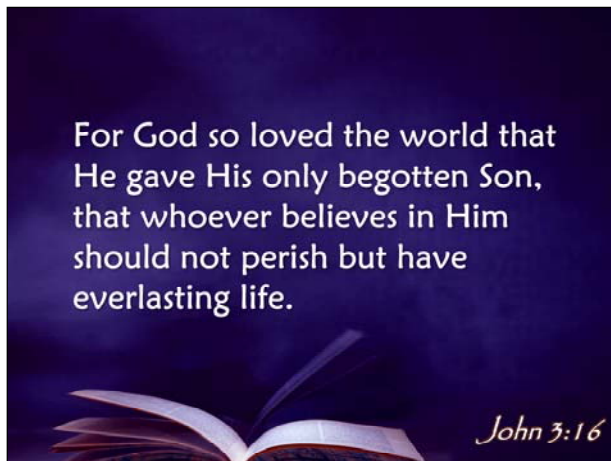


Bible clearly tells us that salvation has appeared to all men – possible, not effective, but possible

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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Perhaps the most famous Bible verse touches this.

God loves the world  
Whoever believes, will be saved.

If you do away with man's choice, you have to do some fancy footwork here. World does not mean world, whoever does not many whoever, or all can.

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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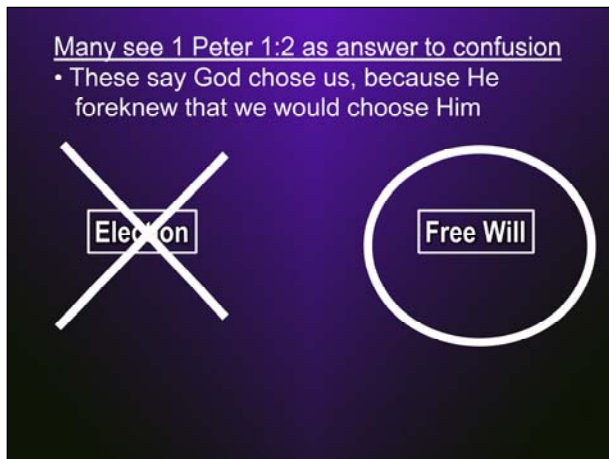
*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Yet...if you do that- I put to you that you attack the character of God and the validity of His Word

You make Him guilty of false advertising. Big deal in our world, laws, lawsuits – cannot promise what you cannot deliver

To do away with our choice – does violence to God's Word, and eventually for many to the gospel evangelism, missions and more

I say all this for balance....because no we go the other way...



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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Many hold to man's freewill and ultimately do away with God's sovereignty.

Many feel that this verse, 1 Peter 1:2, is the key to the puzzle. They tell us that God picked us because He knew we would pick Him. Think about for minute

Jim, do people believe this? Yes. Very honestly – lot of Calvary Chapel pastor's do. You will hear this taught on CSN and more.

I have gotten into more than one discussion, argument with Calvary Pastors over this verse.

Not impossible that someday I will be pushed out of Calvary Chapel right here...really Funny – my Calvinist friends think I am an Armenian. My Armenian friends call me a Calvinist

Notice, God's word clearly tells us that He is sovereign in our salvation...

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will

*Ephesians 1:3-5*

Notice...chose us in Him – before the world was  
Predestined us  
According to good pleasure of His will

Sovereign salvation!

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

11

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain

*John 15:16*

Jesus told disciples – He chose them, not the other way around  
True!

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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Many see 1 Peter 1:2 as answer to confusion

- These say God chose us, because He foreknew that we would choose Him



Make God guilty of Lying, Insider Trading

- Do violence to God's word
- Do violence to our hope, security, more

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

1Pet 1:2 cannot be the key that unlocks the puzzle. It cannot be that God chose us because He knew that we would choose Him.

Why? Makes Him a liar, deceiver. Makes us sovereign, not Him.

Our world sees this as wrong, insider trading and more.

Imagine – watching a football game on TV and I tell you I have power over what happens. I call several things and they all happen, fumbles, etc. Pretty soon you believe me – I am powerful. Till you find out that we are watching a taped delayed airing of the program...and the truth is that I already saw what happened. What would you say to me? Lied, told you I had power, when really I just had inside information. If God chose us, because we would choose Him – then He lies when He says He is sovereign

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

So – now the difficulty...what do we do with these two things. On one hand Bible says God chooses us, and on the other hand – we are called to choose....

Charles Spurgeon said it this way...

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*I am myself persuaded that the Calvinist alone is right upon some points, and the Arminian alone is right upon others. There is a great deal of truth in the positive side of both systems, and a great deal of error in the negative side of both systems.*




*Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

*If I were asked, "Why is a man damned?" I should answer as an Arminian answers, "He destroys himself." I should not dare to lay man's ruin at the door of divine sovereignty. On the other hand, if I were asked, "Why is a man saved?" I could only give the Calvinistic answer, "He is saved through the sovereign grace of God, and not at all of himself."*



*Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

***“When a Calvinist says that all things happen according to the predestination of God, he speaks the truth, and I am willing to be called a Calvinist.***



***When an Arminian says that, when a man sins, the sin is his own, and that, if he continues in sin, and perishes, his eternal damnation will lie entirely at his own door, I believe that he also speaks the truth, though I am not willing to be called an Arminian.***

***Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)***

I agree....I would rather be called a Calvinist than an Arminian

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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***The fact is, there is some truth in both these systems of theology.***




***Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)***

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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*One asked me asked me how I reconciled God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. My answer is simple, I do not need to. They are not at odds. One does not need to reconcile active friends.*



*Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

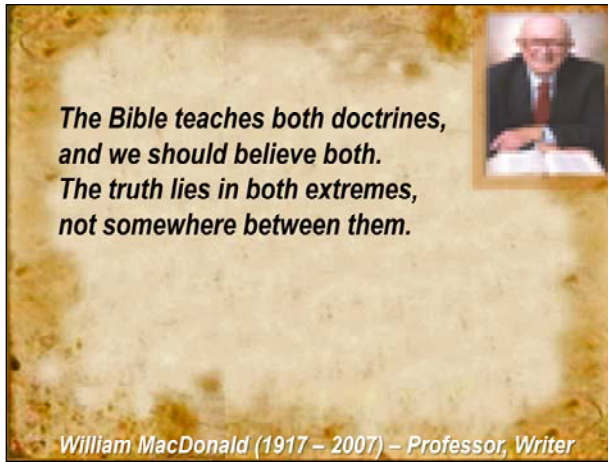


So how do we reconcile? I put to you that we do not. To reconcile these will be to lessen or destroy the other. I put to you that we believe solidly, fully – both

Third option – Not a Calvinist or an Arminianist...but a Biblicist

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*



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*(1 Peter 1:2)*



Hold both of these solidly, without  
diminishing the other

Like railroad tracks running side by  
side – never crossing, coming  
closer, but one which we ride all the  
way to heaven 😊

elect according to the  
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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

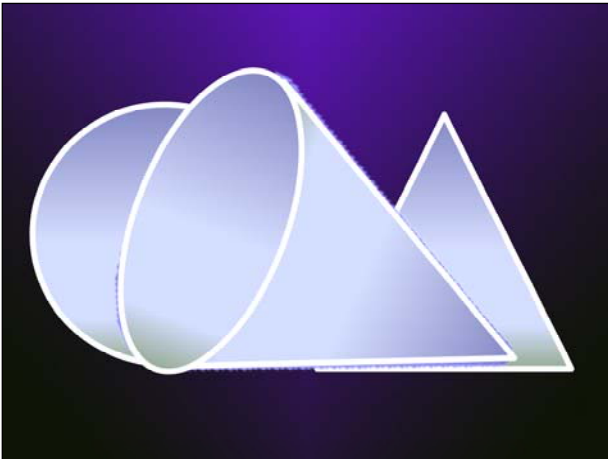


These two railroad tracks carry us to heaven...in distance join to one....

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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Using a different illustration – can a triangle and a square be joined without destroying the other.

No...yes...third dimension

I believe heaven will had dimensions to this we cannot see

Right now – we rest that His ways are Higher than our ways, His thoughts than ours.

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So...how was that for an introduction? Ready to start message now?

What does God mean then – Elect according to foreknowledge?

One – God knows all. When He choose you – knows everything, no surprises, He knows

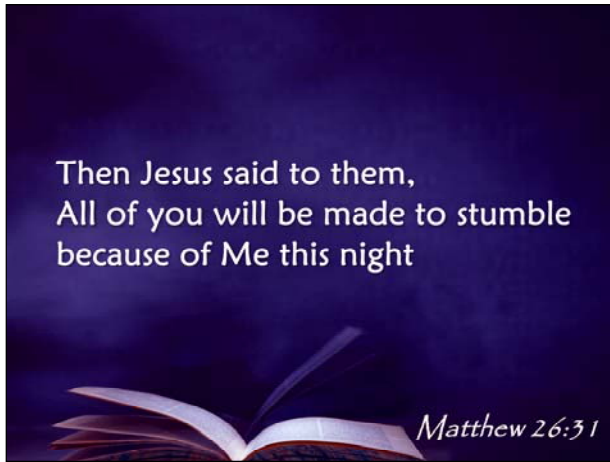
Two – therefore God cannot be disappointed in us. Yes, He is and can be grieved – but not disappointed. Disappointment is based on a missed appointment – missing, failing expectation. Cannot happen with God. If you think God is disappointed with you – wrong. You are disappointed

God knows every sin, failure and denial you will ever do. Knew when He chose you. This is not license to sin...but reality

1 Peter was for a people about to face persecution and they needed this truth. First thing in the letter-amazing

Pressure, persecution bring out the best and worst in us. Like a sponge.

Like to tell you that every Christian in 1<sup>st</sup> century stood strong. Not true. Many would waffle back and forth. Peter knew about that...

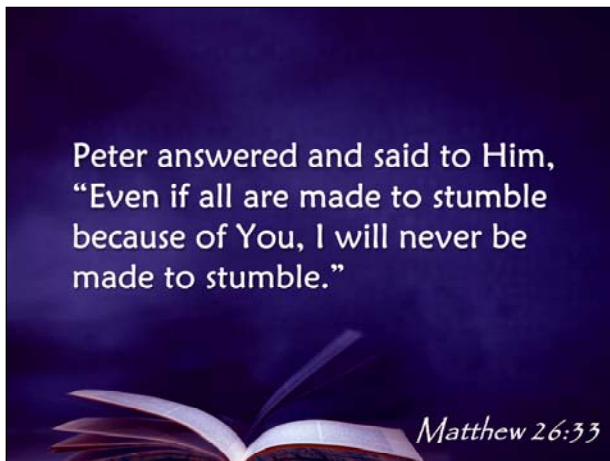


Jesus knew they were going to stumble, and reject Him

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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Peter did not – didn’t believe it

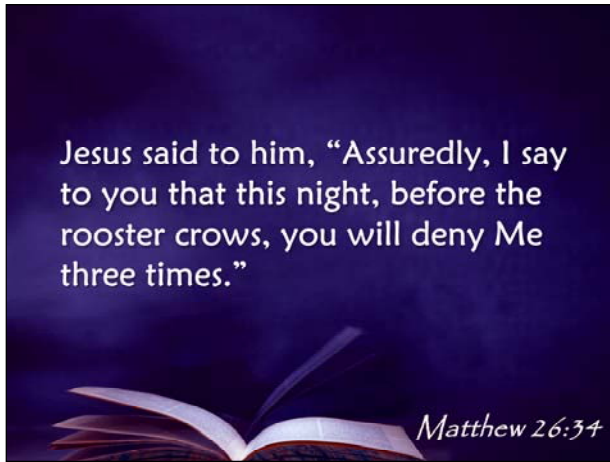
Can hear him saying – Lord You don’t know me very well...

The reality is Peter did not know Peter very well

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

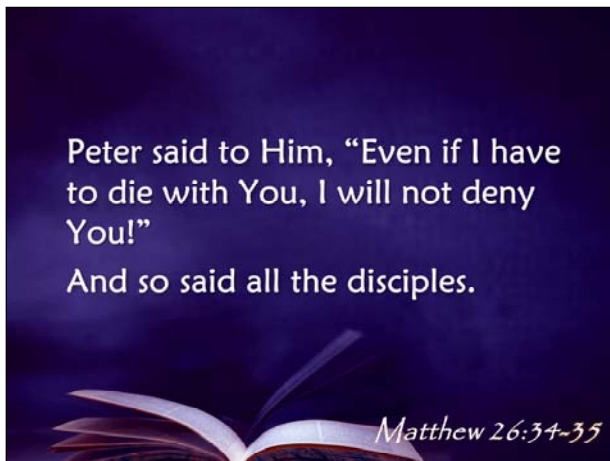
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It would happen within 12 hours

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*



Peter could not believe it

All disciples felt same way

Felt they would never deny Jesus.

Truth is some of us feel that way today

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Luke 22:31-32

Jesus saw...held and talked about when he came back.

True of what He sees in you

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(1 Peter 1:2)

31

Elect according to foreknowledge

- God knows everything about us and knew it ALL when He chose us
- God isn't disappointed in us
- God knows every failure, sin & denial
- In light of coming persecution...needed
- Persecution, pressure – brings best & worst out of us

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

(1 Peter 1:2)

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32

Elect according to foreknowledge

- God knows everything about us and knew it ALL when He chose us
- God knows everything that is coming and we will face...and secures us

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Secondly, God knows everything that is coming, are no surprises that He has not prepared for. There is nothing that can rob us from Him, be too much for Him to hold us in. This is security

33

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

*Romans 8:28-39*

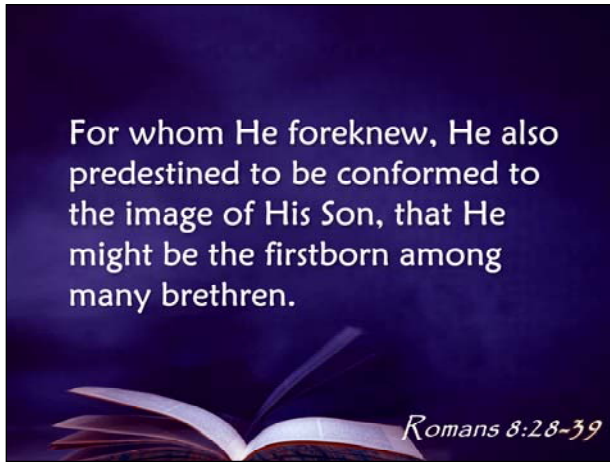
elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Famous verse

All things – no matter what is happening or will happen – for our good – cannot mess up what He is doing in us

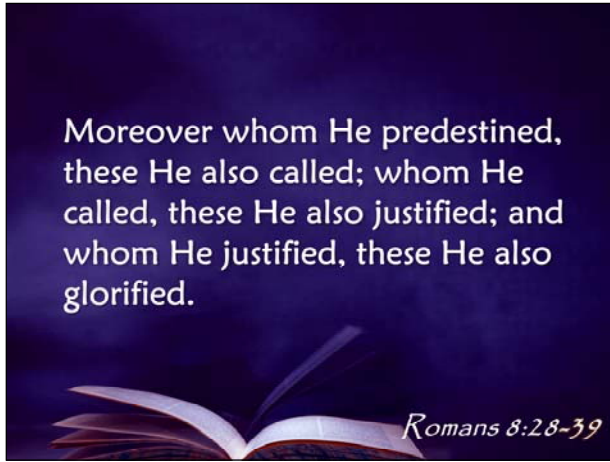
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Notice foreknew – predestined

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*



Who He predestined – called – justified, glorified (heaven)  
Heaven is a package deal

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?



How do we respond?

If God is for us – what can stand against it?

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

37

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.



If God forgives us – who can condemn us...though some try

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

38

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

*Romans 8:28-39*

If these things come...will it steal us from Christ? NO

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

39

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

*Romans 8:28-39*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

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For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8:28-39*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

41

Elect according to foreknowledge

- God knows everything about us and knew it ALL when He chose us
- God knows everything that is coming and we will face...and secures us

This truth – is how this letter begins...and it is wonderful...needed.

It was needed then

It is needed now

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

42



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Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Asked you in the beginning – how  
these words make you feel

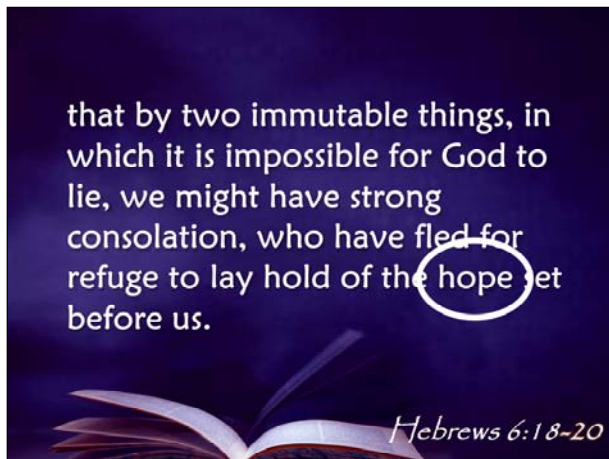
Some – frustrated, some scared,  
some wary, some angry, some  
confused, some bored...and more

Yet...wonder how many hear them as  
I believe God gave them?

Wonderful – solid – comfort

Election can be one of the most  
encouraging of truths

43



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Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Notice the word hope

Talked about last week – summary of  
what this book is about - hope

44

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus

*Hebrews 6:18-20*

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*(1 Peter 1:2)*

Anchor of the soul....

Election...sovereignty is this, can be this...should be this

I personally don't think you can understand it – and if you think you do – I think you mess up the message...distort God, twist His Word.

There is wonder in holding to His word – comfort, hope

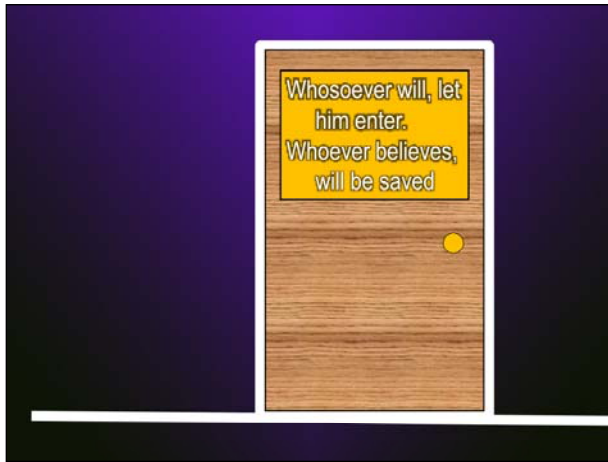
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Elect  
According to  
the foreknowledge  
of God the Father

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

46



elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

As close – want to express to you the hope in Christ, the offer of salvation.

Election – not a evangelistic presentation from God

- If not saved- whoever will believe, will be saved
- some, through men’s teaching and not Gods’ troubled over
- one this week, felt was elect for hell, impossible to be saved
- lie...many have fallen to

Call you to salvation today



elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

*(1 Peter 1:2)*

If today, you surrender and are saved – will discover He chose you before time...that it is His work – wonder Not stuck with you...wants you

If reject...maybe not chosen Jim, that is not fair. Ok, give your life to Him right now. I don’t want to, you say. Maybe not chosen....agggggg

For me – I am offering salvation Confident that those He chose, will be saved....



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*(1 Peter 1:2)*