

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #8

God's Elect Church

March 26, 2025

God is preeminent in power and authority. God's sovereignty is a natural consequence of His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. God is described in the Bible as all-powerful and all-knowing [Psalm 147:5], outside of time [Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2], and responsible for the creation of everything [Genesis 1:1; John 1:1]. God created the universe as He saw fit. God created the earth and man as He saw fit.

At the same time, the Bible describes God as offering humanity choices [Deut. 30:15-19], holding them personally responsible for their sins [Exodus 20:5], and being unhappy with some of their actions [Numbers 25:3].

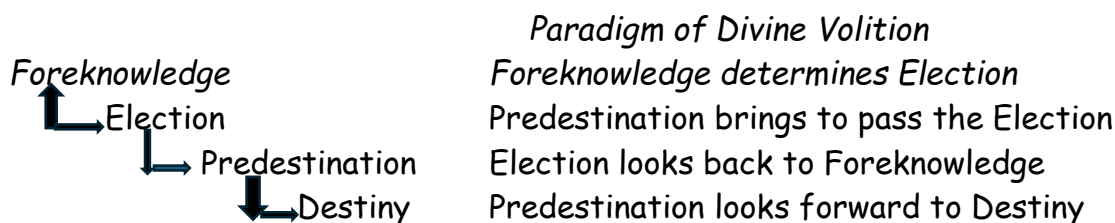
Truth: The Bible clearly teaches Foreknowledge, Election & Predestination.

Biblical Election: Individuals or a group are chosen or elected to Service & Purpose.

*Election doesn't appear to mean to be chosen or elected for salvation or eternal life.

*Correction: Election Is Connected With Salvation Or Eternal Life.

The Bible says election is based on Foreknowledge of God The Father. [I Pet. 1:2]



Adrian Rogers: The order is foreknowledge, election and predestination. Election looks backward to foreknowledge. Predestination looks forward to destiny. God saw a street-fighting, teenage boy in West Palm Beach; a 15-year-old kid getting into a lot of trouble, skipping school, getting into fights, telling lies, cheating and using bad language. God saw that boy repenting of his sin. He said, "That's one of My elect." God saw him trusting Jesus and He said, "He's one of My elect, and He's going to be like Jesus. It is predestined." [Rom. 8:29] "Whom He foreknew, them He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son. I Peter 1:2 "We are elect according to the foreknowledge of God."

I Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

*The role of a priest is to mediate or restore the relationship between God and the lost.

I Peter 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Peter wrote this epistle between 62-64 AD. Nero is the current Emperor of the Roman Empire.
Swindoll: I Peter focuses on the importance of believers bearing up under unjust suffering yet continuing to live well.

I Peter might be called the Job of the New Testament, providing encouragement for the true believer to continue on in the way that Jesus has laid out for all His followers.

The endurance Peter called these believers to is similar to Job's, a man who suffered despite his righteousness. Peter maintained that this was the kind of true perseverance that God expects from His people.

I Pet. 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers [sojourners; both Jewish and Gentile believers who live as exiles; temporarily residing abroad] scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

- Peter was writing to elect sojourners who were dispersed from their homelands.

Sojourner #3927 parepidémos: It conveys the idea of being a foreigner or an alien, living in a land where one does not hold citizenship. In the New Testament, it is used metaphorically to describe Christians who live in the world but whose true citizenship is in heaven.

Adrian Rogers: Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven;

We are citizens of heaven sojourning on earth.

- These "scattered strangers" were going through a time of suffering and persecution.
- At least fifteen times in this letter Peter used 8 different Greek words to refer to suffering. Peter wrote to encourage them to be good witnesses to their persecutors, and to remember: Their Suffering Would Lead To Glory.

² Elect according to the Foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, [being set apart by the Spirit] for obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ's blood: May grace and peace be yours in full measure!

Elect #1588 eklektos: of those chosen out by God for the rendering of special service to Him
You have been strategically placed. They were scattered as strangers living in hostile territory.

In July, 64AD, Nero [Roman Emperor] set fire to the slum areas of Rome. When the people turned against Nero, he was searching for a scapegoat on whom to place the blame of the fire. The blame was set upon the Christians.

- Christians were nailed to crosses.
- Many were set on fire as human candles to light the gardens of Nero.
- Many were dressed in animal skins & set loose in the forest to be hunted like wild beasts.
- They were scattered not only as strangers but scattered as seed.

God's Purpose in the Persecution: The Christians scattered everywhere preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ like seed being sown.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word.

Context: After the stoning of Stephen when Saul of Tarsus was persecuting Christians

I Pet.1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, [being set apart by the Spirit] for obedience and for sprinkling with Jesus Christ's blood:
Truth: Our salvation is the work of our Triune God.

1. Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

Adrian Rogers: In the counsel halls of eternity, before God had swung the world into space, God loved you. That I am elect does not take away human responsibility.

➤ I must choose the Lord Jesus. The Bible says, "Whosoever will may come."

2. Our salvation was performed by God the Holy Spirit.

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit.

➤ Sanctification = set apart for a special service

38 hagiasmos = holiness; consecration - emphasizing a life dedicated to God through faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It encompasses both the initial act of being set apart at salvation and the ongoing process of spiritual maturation and moral purity.

➤ God the Spirit convicted us of our sin and need of a Savior.

➤ God the Spirit revealed the Lord Jesus Christ to us.

➤ God the Spirit put faith in our heart and put a desire for salvation in our heart. [Eph. 2:8]

➤ God the Spirit opened us up and poured in the love of Jesus Christ.

➤ We were born again through the Holy Spirit.

➤ We are utterly, totally and completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

Adrian Rogers: You are saved by grace through faith but you were saved unto obedience.

You are not saved by faith and works. You are saved by a faith that works.

3. Our salvation was purchased by the Son. "and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

Note: Three times in the OT we see the ceremonial sprinkling of blood.

It is a picture of what Jesus Christ would do.

1) Sprinkling of the blood when a leper was cleansed.

➤ They took 2 innocent doves. Filled a basin with running water.

➤ The priest would wring the neck of one of the doves and kill it in the basin of running water. The blood would be shed in the pure running water.

➤ The priest would take the other dove and dip it in the basin of bloody water and then release it. The blood would be dripping from the wings of the dove as it flew higher with victory dripping from his wings. A soul set free!

➤ The high priest would take the remaining bloody water and sprinkle it on the leper.

Truth: The sprinkling of the blood was for cleansing and consecration.

2) When a priest was ordained in OT, a sacrifice was made.

➤ Half of the blood was sprinkled on the altar and the rest was sprinkled on the priest to ordain or set him aside for the priesthood.

Truth: We have not only been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, we have been consecrated. Our salvation was planned by the Father, performed by the Holy Spirit and purchased by the Son.

A Living Stone & A Chosen People

I Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's special possession,

that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

I Pet. 2:4-5 So as you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight, ⁵ you yourselves, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Reminder: In the OT, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and he could only enter one time per year to make atonement for the people and sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat.

When Jesus died, the veil was rent from top to bottom. No more animal sacrifices are needed.

All believers have now become priests and can enter the Holy of Holies.

Heb. 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness

to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;

How do I practice as a priest?

I Pet. 2:5 Offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

Reminder: In the OT, the priest would offer an animal sacrifice which would be put to death.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Reminder: In the OT, the priest would offer up incense.

Heb. 13:15 Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, acknowledging his name.."

Adrian Rogers: As a believer priest, I offer the sacrifice not of incense, but of praise;
Not of the blood of an animal, but I present my body a living sacrifice.

What is my profession as a priest?

I Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's special possession,

that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

➤ You are to be making God known to man: telling man and bringing man to God.

Ex. 28:33-35 In the Old Testament, the High Priest wore a robe with golden bells and pomegranates alternating around the hem, when serving in the Tabernacle/Temple.

³⁵The robe is to be on Aaron as he ministers, and his sound will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord and when he leaves, so that he does not die.

The high priest pictures our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, as our Great High Priest. When the high priest went into the holy place to function, the people could not see him; but because they could hear the bells, they knew he was busy ministering on their behalf.

The bells and pomegranates were meant to be a visual and auditory reminder of the priest's role and the importance of his service.

McGee: Pomegranates and golden bells speak of sweet sounds and fragrant fruit.

The bells speak of profession and the calling of the believer.

The pomegranates speak of practice and the conduct of the believer.

Eph. 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that
ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

McGee: We have a vocalization and a vocation. The calling and the vocation should correspond.

Rogers: As a believer-priest:

- You are to ring those bells. We are told to show forth His praise.
- You are to wear the fruit and show the people. You are saved to bear fruit.

Jesus Chose His Disciples

Mark 3:13-14 Jesus chose 12 disciples "that they might be with Him and that
He might send them out to preach."

Very clearly, these twelve were chosen to a specific task and purpose, which included proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

John 6:70-71 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve,
and one of you is a devil?" He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon:
for he it was that should betray Him, being one of the twelve.

1. Unlike the other disciples that called Jesus "Lord," Judas never used this title for Jesus.
2. Instead, he called him "Rabbi," which acknowledged Jesus as nothing more than a teacher.
3. While other disciples at times made great professions of faith and loyalty, [John 6:68; 11:16] Judas never did so and appears to have remained silent.
4. When the synoptic gospels list the Twelve, they are always listed in the same general order with slight variations [Matt. 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16]. The general order is believed to indicate the relative closeness of their personal relationship with Jesus. Despite the variations, Peter and the brothers James and John are always listed first, which is consistent with their relationships with Jesus.
5. Judas is always listed last, which may indicate his relative lack of a personal relationship with Christ. Additionally, the only documented dialogue between Jesus and Judas involves Judas being rebuked by Jesus after his greed-motivated remark to Mary (John 12:1-8), Judas' denial of his betrayal [Matt. 26:25], and the betrayal itself [Luke 22:48].

Judas: Chosen To Fulfill Scripture

John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not.

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not and who should betray Him.

John 13:18-19 Jesus is speaking of His disciples: I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the Scripture may be fulfilled. He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He.

Prophecy in Ps. 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted,
which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Truth: The reason Judas was chosen was to fulfill Scripture.

Rogers: There are over 330 precise prophecies that converge in the Lord Jesus Christ and they are literally fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ. They are Old Testament Scriptures that were fulfilled in the New Testament. Most of these were not fulfilled by His friends. They were fulfilled by His enemies, those who would have the most to lose by the fulfillment of the prophecies.

In Jesus's High Priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus says in verse 12, "While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You have given me, I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled."

Destruction #684 Apóleia: ruin, loss, perishing; eternal ruin, perdition

to convey the severe consequences of rejecting God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

Jesus was not surprised by Judas's betrayal. Judas was the "son of destruction."

Rather, Jesus chose Judas knowing fully that he had a wicked and unbelieving heart that would lead to betrayal [John 6:64; 70-71] in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

Despite being chosen by Jesus to fulfill prophecy, Judas is held responsible for his actions.

This illustrates the paradox of Divine Sovereignty and human responsibility.

In John 15:16, Jesus reminds them of the purpose for which they were chosen.

This chapter is part of "The Upper Room Discourse" of John 14-16.

Jesus is speaking to the eleven remaining apostles. [Judas already left. John 13:30].

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained [appointed] you,
that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:
that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.

Chosen #1586 eklegó In the New Testament, it is frequently used to describe God's sovereign choice or election of individuals or groups for a specific purpose or destiny.

properly, to select (choose) out of, by a highly deliberate choice with a definite outcome

Appointed #5087 tithémi: To place, to set, to lay, to appoint, to establish

To convey the act of placing or setting something in a specific position or condition.

Remain #3306 menó to abide, to stay, to continue, to dwell, to endure

A deeply spiritual connotation, reflecting the intimate and enduring relationship between believers and Christ. refers to the act of setting someone apart for special service.

In the context, the picture of bearing fruit is related to abiding in Jesus Christ so that He can do His work in and through us. This pictures an intimate relationship and not a superficial acquaintance. What is my source of fruitfulness?

John 15:2b, 4-5 Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ⁴Abide [remain] in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.

⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained [appointed] you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.

Key Point: Remain [meno] is in the present tense which signifies the fruit would continually remain. He is promising your supernatural fruit will endure throughout eternity!

Our fruit will accompany us to glory! Hallelujah! Amazing grace!

Jesus' command to go forth and spread the Gospel and bring forth fruit that remains is similar to the symbolism of the bells and the pomegranates on the priest's garment.

Reminder: The bells speak of calling and the profession of the believer.

The pomegranates speak of practice and the conduct of the believer.

Bell #1 Tell Your Confidence in God's Word

A true believer will ring a bell of the plenary inspiration of the Bible—that this Book that we hold is the Word of God.

Plenary: The Bible is God's Word to humanity. It was written by human authors, but God prompted and guided them to write what they did. Every word, word form, & word placement found in the Bible's original manuscripts was divinely & intentionally written.

Key: This bell is not clear today in the world. Will the Word of God stand up in the hour in which we are living? You are either convinced the Bible is the Word of God or you have your doubts. If you have doubts, you have no bell to ring today.

Bell #2 Declare the Deity of Christ [Your calling & your profession]

Much of the denominational literature follows the teaching of one leading denomination which states, "Paul would never have understood the declaration of the Nicene Council in A.D. 325 that Jesus was very God of very God. It was the church that exalted Jesus to the rank of deity." A careful reading of Paul's epistles reveal Paul believed that Jesus Christ was God, the Lord of glory, God manifest in the flesh.

Jesus Christ is being dishonored. The attempt is being made to pull Him down from His throne.

Ring the Bell: I believe Jesus is Fully God and Fully Man.

Bell #3 Speak of the Redemptive Blood of Christ

The believer has been pardoned by the blood of Christ. He has been saved because Christ shed His blood for his sins. Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood,

the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Ring Your Bell: I am saved because Jesus shed His blood for me. God can forgive sins because Christ shed His blood upon the cross and was raised from the dead.

Bell #4 State Your Personal Convictions

Personal conviction is a bell that every believer should be ringing.

Apostle Paul: "I am the prisoner of Jesus Christ. I'm here because I have convictions."

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth ... Having done all, stand ...

Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

McGee: Someone has said that silence is golden, but sometimes it's yellow.

Christians need to stand up and be counted.

Pomegranates represent the fruitfulness and abundance of a life devoted to divine service.

➤ You are to wear the fruit and show the people. You are saved to bear fruit.

➤ They speak of practice and the fruit of one's life.

Matt. 7:20 By their fruits, you shall know them.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit.

Truth: It speaks of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit that He produces in us.

Key: God's specific order: a bell, then a pomegranate, a bell, then a pomegranate

1. The Fruit of Knowing the Book

Some say: "I believe the Bible from cover to cover," when he doesn't even know what is between the covers! If you are going to ring the bell that says, "I believe the Book" then, you need to know it. God ordered a pomegranate along with the bell.

II Tim. 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God,

a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. The Fruit of Love for Christ

Paul the Apostle said, Phil. 3:10 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.

It's one thing to believe upon Christ Jesus as your Savior; it's another thing to know Him today as your Great High Priest, your Lord and your Master, to know Him as the One who is coming someday as the Bridegroom. It's wonderful to be able to ring the bell declaring your belief in the deity of Christ, but do you have a pomegranate right next to it that tells your love for Him? It's important to ring the bell of the deity of Christ, but is knowing Him your ambition? Is that the direction you are moving today?

3. The Fruit of a Worthy Walk

You may say, "I've been pardoned by the fact that He shed His blood for me."

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Is your conversion showing in your conduct, your behavior, your walk?

Paul to the Ephesians: after having explained their exalted position in Christ, seated with Christ in the heavenlies: he said in Eph. 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long—suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Strong's #514 = axios = To Be Worthy Of On The Grounds Of Being Fit, Meet,
Prepared, Suitable [41x in Scripture]

It was said of Moses that he was the meekest man on earth, yet Moses walked into Pharaoh's court and said, "Let my people go!" He is the one who came down from the mountain, saw the people worshipping a golden calf, threw down the stone tablets on which were the Ten Commandments, and broke them. Meekness means you have no irons in the fire for yourself, but the stand you are taking is for God only.

4. The Fruit of Steadfastness

This little bell doesn't make much noise. It needs a pomegranate next to it that presents evidence of our willingness to pay a price for our faith. Paying a price is not popular today. Am I joining the multitudes who are compromising and cutting corners?

All believers are ringing a bell. Some are muted and muzzled. Some are empty. Some are vain. Some are uncertain. What kind of a sound are you making today?
May God help us to have both profession and practice in this dark hour in which we live.

My Desire: I want the fruit of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus to show in my life because He has made me a holy priesthood. Ring the bells and tell the people.
Bear the fruit and show that Jesus Christ is Lord.