

Characteristics of a Great Church Pt2

Elect of God

I Thess 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

Introduction

Habila Adamu,

Outline

- 1. It was a saved church,**
- 2. It was a Surrendered Church**
- 3. It was a Suffering Church**
- 4. It was a Soul Winning Church**
- 5. It was a Second Coming Church**

Lesson

1 Its was a saved Church

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God

Better rendering is

knowing Brethren, beloved of God your election

This introduces us to the Great Doctrine of Election

1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

- 1 Those of mankind who are predestinated to life, God chose before the foundation of the world was laid, in accordance with His eternal and immutable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will. God chose them in Christ for everlasting glory, solely out of His free grace and love, without anything in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him to choose.

- 2 As God has appointed the elect unto glory, so, by the eternal and completely free intention of His will, He has foreordained all the means. Accordingly, those who are elected, being fallen in Adam: - are redeemed by Christ, - are effectually called to faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, - are justified, adopted, sanctified, - and are kept by His power through faith unto salvation; - neither are any but the elect redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.

The Message of Election

The Meaning of Election

The Motive of Election

The Mess of Election

The Message of election

AW PINK

In one of his letters to Erasmus, Luther said, "Your thoughts of God are too human.

The most dishonoring and degrading conceptions of the rule and reign of the Almighty are now held almost

everywhere. To countless thousands, even among those professing to be Christians, the God of the Scriptures is quite unknown.

Of old, God complained to an apostate Israel, Thou thoughtest that I was altogether as thyself. (Ps. 50:21).

Isaiah 55:8 "For **MY THOUGHTS** are **NOT** your **THOUGHTS**, **NOR** are your ways **MY WAYS**," declares the **LORD**."

- **Matthew 22:14** (NKJV) Jesus says, "For Many are Called, but Few are **CHOSEN**."

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV) Jesus says, "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the **ELECT'S** sake those days will be shortened."

Matthew 24:31 (NASB) Jesus says, "And He (JESUS) will send forth His angels with A Great Trumpet and they will gather together **HIS ELECT** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) "For False christs and False Prophets will rise and show great Signs and Wonders to Deceive, *if possible*, even the **ELECT**."

Mark 13:20 (NKJV) "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the **ELECT's** sake, whom **HE CHOSE**, He shortened the days."

Mark 13:27 (NKJV) Jesus says, "And then He will send His Angels, and gather together His **ELECT** from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."

Luke 18:7 (NASB) Jesus says, "Will not God bring about justice for **HIS ELECT** who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"

John 6:44 (NKJV) Jesus says, "No one can come to Me unless the **FATHER** who sent Me **DRAWS** him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:65 (NKJV) Jesus says, "Therefore I have said to you that **NO ONE** can come to Me unless it has been **GRANTED** to him by **MY FATHER.**" (**GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE: 2 Tim 2:23-26, Acts 5:30-31, Acts 11:17**)

John 10:14-15 (NKJV) Jesus speaks to the Pharisees & others, "I am the Good Shepherd; and I know **MY SHEEP**, and am **KNOWN** by **MY OWN** (Sheep). As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and **I LAY DOWN MY LIFE** for the **SHEEP**...(26)"But you do **NOT** Believe, because you are **NOT** of **MY SHEEP**, as I said to you. My Sheep **HEAR MY VOICE**, and **I KNOW THEM**, and they **FOLLOW ME**. And I give them **ETERNAL LIFE**, and they shall never Perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **MY FATHER**, who has **GIVEN THEM TO ME**, is Greater than all; and **NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH** them out of **MY FATHER'S**. I and My Father are one."

John 13:18 (NKJV) "I do not speak concerning all of you (twelve disciples). I know whom I have **CHOSEN**; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'"

John 17:9 (NKJV) Jesus Prays to the Father, "I Pray for **THEM** (Disciples, Believers). I do **NOT** Pray for the **WORLD** but for those whom **YOU** have **GIVEN ME**, for they are **YOURS.**"

Acts 1:2 (NKJV) "Until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given Commandments to the Apostles whom He had **CHOSEN.**"

Acts 9:15 (NKJV) Lord says, "Go, for he (Paul) is a **CHOSEN VESSEL** of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, Kings, and the Children of Israel."

Acts 13:48 (NKJV) "Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and Glorified the Word of the Lord. And as many as had been **APPOINTED** to Eternal Life Believed."

Acts 22:14 (NKJV) "Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has **CHOSEN** you that you should **KNOW HIS WILL**, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth."

Romans 8:28-33 (NKJV) "And we know that **ALL** things Work together for **GOOD** to them that **LOVE GOD**, to them who are the **CALLED** according to **HIS PURPOSE**. For whom **HE FOREKNEW**, **HE** also **PREDESTINED** to be **CONFORMED** to the **IMAGE of HIS SON**, that **HE** might be the Firstborn among many Brethren. Moreover whom **HE PREDESTINED**, these **HE** also **CALLED**; whom **HE CALLED**, these **HE** also **JUSTIFIED**; and whom **HE JUSTIFIED**, these **HE** also **GLORIFIED**. What then shall we say (in response) 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? Who shall bring a charge against **GOD'S ELECT**? It is God who Justifies."

Romans 8:33 (NKJV) "Who shall bring a charge against God's **ELECT**? It is God who Justifies."

Romans 9:19 "God has **MERCY** on whom He **DESIRES** & He **HARDENS** whom He **DESIRES**.." (i.e. He **ALLOWS** people to **HARDEN** their **OWN HEART** as in [Rom 1:18-32](#))

Romans 9:22-24 (NASB) "What if God, although willing to demonstrate His **WRATH** and to make **HIS POWER KNOWN**, endured with **MUCH PATIENCE** vessels of **WRATH** prepared for destruction? And He did so to

make **KNOWN** the **RICHES** of **HIS GLORY** upon vessels of **MERCY**, which He **PREPARED BEFOREHAND** for **GLORY**, even us, whom He also **CALLED**, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles."

Romans 9:10-25 (NKJV) "..for the Children **NOT YET BEING BORN** (to Isaac & Rebecca), Nor having done any **GOOD OR EVIL**, that the Purpose of God according to **ELECTION** might stand, **NOT** of **WORKS** but of Him who **CALLS**, it was said to her (prophesied to her), "The **OLDER** shall **SERVE** the **YOUNGER**." As it is written, "**JACOB I HAVE LOVED**, but **ESAU I HAVE HATED** (Rejected)." What shall we say then? Is there **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS WITH GOD**? Certainly not! For **HE (GOD)** says to Moses, "I Will Have **MERCY** on **WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY**, and I Will Have **COMPASSION** on **WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION**." So then it is not of him who wills (human will), nor of him who runs (our efforts or works), but of **GOD** who shows **MERCY**. For the **SCRIPTURE** (from God) says to **PHARAOH**, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may Show (Display) My Power in you, and that **MY NAME** (God's) may be declared in all the earth." Therefore He has Mercy on whom **HE WILLS**, and whom **HE WILL SHE HARDENS** (He Chooses to make some people refuse to Listen & Continue in their Sin). You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His Will?" (i.e. Why does God blame people for not listening? Haven't they simply done what He made them do?") But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing Formed say to Him who Formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the **POTTER** have *power over* the **CLAY**, from the same lump to make one **VESSEL** for **HONOR** and another (Vessel) for **DISHONOR**? What if God, wanting to show **HIS WRATH** and to make **HIS POWER KNOWN**, endured with much Longsuffering (patience) the **VESSELS OF WRATH PREPARED FOR DESTRUCTION**, and that He might make **KNOWN** the **RICHES OF HIS GLORY** ([Eph 2:7](#)) on the **VESSELS OF MERCY**, which He had **PREPARED BEFOREHAND** for **GLORY**, even **US** whom **HE CALLED**, not of the Jews **ONLY**, but also of the

Gentiles? As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her Beloved, who was not Beloved."

Romans 11:2 (NASB) "God has **NOT** rejected **HIS PEOPLE** whom He **FOREKNEW**. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?"

Romans 11:5-7 (NKJV) "Even so then, at this present time there is a **REMNANT** according to the **ELECTION** of Grace. And if by Grace, then it is No longer of Works; otherwise Grace is no longer Grace. But if *it is* of Works, it is no longer Grace; otherwise Work is no longer Work. What then? Israel has Not obtained what it seeks; but the **ELECT** have obtained it, and the rest were Blinded."

Romans 11:28 (NKJV) "Many of the Jews are now enemies of the Good News. But this has been to your benefit, for God has given His gifts to you Gentiles. Yet the Jews are still His **CHOSEN** people (Re: **ELECTION**) because of His Promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Romans 16:13 (NKJV) "Greet Rufus, **CHOSEN** in the Lord, and his mother and mine."

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NKJV) "But God has **CHOSEN** the Foolish things of the World to put to Shame the Wise, and God has **CHOSEN** the Weak things of the World to put to shame the things which are Mighty; and the base things of the World and the things which are Despised God has **CHOSEN**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are."

1 Corinthians 2:7 (NASB) "But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which **GOD PREDESTINED** *before* the **AGES** to our glory"

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NKJV) Paul speaking to Believers, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavenly Places in Christ, just as **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**, to the Praise of the Glory of His Grace, by which He has made us Accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have Redemption through His Blood, the Forgiveness Of Sins, according to the Riches of His Grace which He made to abound toward us in all Wisdom and Prudence, having made Known to us The Mystery of **HIS WILL**, according to His Good Pleasure which He Purposed in Himself, that in the Dispensation Of The Fullness Of The Times (at the right time) He might Gather Together in one all things in Christ (under the Authority of Christ), both which are in Heaven and which are on Earth— in Him. In Him also we have obtained an **INHERITANCE**, being **PREDESTINED** according to the Purpose of Him who works all things according to the Counsel of His Will (His Plan), that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the Praise of His Glory. In Him you also Trusted, after you Heard The Word Of Truth (Gospel), the Gospel (Good News) of your Salvation; in whom also, having Believed, you were **SEALED(MARKED)** with the Holy Spirit of Promise, who is the **GUARANTEE** of our **INHERITANCE** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the Praise of His Glory."

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV) "In Him also we have obtained an Inheritance, being **PREDESTINED** according to the Purpose of **HIM** who Works **ALL** things According to the Counsel of **HIS WILL**"

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV) "Therefore, as the **ELECT** of God, Holy and Beloved, put on Tender Mercies, Kindness, Humility, Meekness, Longsuffering.."

1 Thessalonians 1:4 "...knowing, Beloved Brethren, your **ELECTION** by God."

2 Thessalonians 2:12-13 (NKJV) Paul writing to Believers, "That they all (Unbelievers) may be Condemned (Judged— to Hell) who did Not Believe the Truth but had Pleasure in Unrighteousness. But we (Believers) are bound to Give Thanks to God always for you, Brethren **BELOVED** by the **LORD**, because **GOD** from **THE BEGINNING CHOSE YOU** for **SALVATION** through Sanctification by the Spirit and Belief in the Truth."

2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NKJV) "Share with me in the Sufferings for the Gospel according to the Power of God, who has Saved us and **CALLED US** with a **HOLY CALLING**, not according to our Works, but according to **HIS OWN PURPOSE** and Grace which was **GIVEN** to us in Christ Jesus **BEFORE TIME BEGAN..**"

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV) "Therefore I Endure All things for the Sake of the **ELECT**, that they also may obtain the Salvation which is in Christ Jesus with Eternal Glory."

Titus 1:1-3 (NKJV) "Paul, a bondservant of God and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the Faith of **GOD'S ELECT (CHOSEN)** and the Acknowledgment of the Truth which accords with Godliness, in hope of Eternal Life which God, who cannot lie, **PROMISED BEFORE TIME BEGAN**, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior."

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NKJV) "Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims (foreigners) of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **ELECT** according to the **FOREKNOWLEDGE** of God the Father, in Sanctification of the Spirit, for Obedience and sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied."

1 Peter 2:4 (NKJV) "Coming to Him as to a living stone, Rejected indeed by men, but **CHOSEN BY GOD** and **PRECIOUS.**"

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) Peter writing to the Believers, "But **YOU** are a **CHOSEN GENERATION**, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, His own Special People, that you may Proclaim the Praises of Him who **CALLED YOU OUT** of Darkness into His Marvelous light."

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV) "Therefore, Brethren, be even more diligent to make your **CALL** and **ELECTION** sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble"

2 John 1:1 (NKJV) "To the **ELECT** Lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have Known the Truth"

2 John 1:13 (NKJV)"The children of your **ELECT** Sister greet you. Amen".

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV) "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have **NOT** been written in the **BOOK OF LIFE** of the **LAMB SLAIN** from the **FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.**"

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV) "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the Bottomless Pit and go to Perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are **NOT** written in the **BOOK OF LIFE** from the **FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Revelation 17:14 (NKJV) "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will Overcome them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are **CALLED**, **CHOSEN**, and **FAITHFUL.**"

Psalm 65:4 (NASB) "How blessed is the one whom You **CHOOSE** and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple."

The SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD over His Creation in Salvation, is taken from the Bible— it is NOT based on MAN'S FEELINGS or OPINIONS. The DOCTRINE OF ELECTION— PREDESTINATION, comes from GOD Himself, and not JOHN CALVIN— as if its MAN that invented it. So either you EXCEPT the BIBLE, and SUBMIT to it, or you can REJECT GOD'S WORD. Remember it is GOD who inspired it, as well as the one who placed ELECTION— PREDESTINATION in there. HE is the one who has REVEALED this precious most GRACE-CENTERED

The Meaning of Election

QUOTE by ARTHUR PINK, "The God of Jacob" Book:
 "Election is not as some have supposed, harsh and unjust, but is a most merciful provision on the part of God. Had he not from the beginning chosen some to salvation, all would have perished. Had he not before the foundation of the world chosen certain ones to be conformed to the image of His Son, the death of Christ would have been in vain so far as the human race is concerned.Reduced to its simplest terms, Election means that God chose me before I chose Him. Said our Lord, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16). We love Him because He first loved us.

Election means that before I was born, yea, before the foundation of the world, I was chosen in Christ and predestinated unto a place in God's family. Election means that we believed because He made us willing in the day of His power (Psalm 110:3). Election then strips the creature of all merit, removes all ground of boasting, strikes us helpless in the dust, and ascribes all the glory to God.

"QUOTE:: "I'm so glad that God **CHOSE** me **BEFORE** the foundation of the world, because He never would have **CHOSEN** me **AFTER** I was born!" —Charles Spurgeon, Reformed Baptist Preacher from Britain (1834 - 1892)

John 6:37

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

JOHN 6:44

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day

JOHN 6:64

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.

Matt 11;27

²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²

Acts 13:46

“It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

The Motive of Election

What moved God to chose anyone to salvation

1.Divine Pleasure

Ephesians 1:4

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Psalm 103:19

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 135:6

The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

Daniel 4:35

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

2. Divine Display**Ephesians 1:5**

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Romans 9:22

²² What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ *even* us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles

3. Divine Love

I Peter 1:2 ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son,

Romans 11:2

² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

John MacArthur comments on **foreknowledge** as it relates to **election** noting that

A common explanation of **election** is that the elect are chosen because God knew beforehand what they would

do. That defines **foreknowledge** as foresight. I've heard it explained that God looked down through the eons of history, saw by virtue of His omniscience what you and I would do, and then chose or didn't choose us based on whether we did or didn't believe. That at first sounds like a good explanation--but it's not the truth.....

There are several reasons for wanting to believe that God's **foreknowledge** means foresight. Our **fallen nature** desperately want some responsibility for our salvation. Likewise our **fallen perspective** makes God's sovereign choice appear unfair. But because our minds are polluted by sin, we are in no position to exalt our pride and call ourselves virtuous, or pull down the justice of God and call Him unfair." (**Click to read** Note that this quote is not from "Chosen by God, Part 1" but is found in Part 2 which can be accessed by clicking the dropdown window near the top of the article. Dr MacArthur's interesting explanation of why many men want to believe that foreknowledge is simply foresight. Scroll down to the section entitled "**Man's Decline**") (Bolding added)

In other NT uses both **prognosis** and the verb root **proginosko** are used in relationship to God and acquire an additional meaning as explained in the next section.

Theologian Louis Berkhof has this to say about foreknow (proginosko) and foreknowledge (prognosis), noting that in the New Testament these terms

do not denote simple intellectual foresight or prescience, the mere taking knowledge of something beforehand, but rather a selective knowledge which regards one with favor and makes one an object of love, and thus approaches the idea of foreordination, [Acts 2:23](#) (Comp. 4:28); [Rom. 8:29](#); 11:2; 1 Peter 1:2. These passages simply lose their meaning, if the words be

taken in the sense of simply taking knowledge of one in advance, for God foreknows all men in that sense. Even Arminians feel constrained to give the words a more determinative meaning, namely, to foreknow one with absolute assurance in a certain state or condition. This includes the absolute certainty of that future state, and for that very reason comes very close to the idea of predestination. (L. Berkhof, Systematic Theology Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976, 112)

Comment: The words "**the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**" (Acts 2:23), are a Greek construction governed by the Granville-Sharp rule. This grammatical rule simply states that when two nouns are joined by the word "and" (the Greek kai) and the first noun has the article (article = "the") in front of it and the second does not, both nouns refer to the same thing. In [Acts 2:23](#), this rule shows that the word **foreknowledge** refers to the same act as does the phrase **predetermined plan** and is an additional description. The Greek word "**plan**" (Greek = boule [word study]), means to have an interchange of opinions, a mutual advising or the exchange of deliberative judgment. **Plan** refers to the results of a consultation between individuals.

Reasons Foreknowledge is not Foresight and a correct understanding of election

1. It misunderstands the meaning of the Word
2. It assumes a better Condition of that sinner
3. It Rejects a Sovereign God
4. It makes Salvation based on merit or Forseen faith, works

QUOTE FROM R.C. SPROULS: "Reformed theology does NOT teach that God brings the ELECT "kicking and screaming, against their wills," into His kingdom. It teaches that God so-works in the hearts of the Elect as to make them willing and pleased to come to Christ. They come to Christ because they want to. They want to because God has created in their hearts a desire for Christ." —R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries -

The Mess of Election

What are the common objections given to Election?

If you are teaching it right you will always have these 2 objections

Romans 9