

INTRODUCTION

- church growth *v.* church health

*1. God uses those whom He purchased. (1:1a)*

- Paul's self-identification with the Lord: *bond-slave*
- our self-identification with the Lord

1 Cor. 6:20; Rom. 6:22; 2 Cor. 5:15; Acts 20:24

*2. God uses those commissioned by Christ. (1:1b)*

- "Apostles" *v.* "apostles"

Phil. 2:25; Acts 14:14

- those Christ commissions in the present day

Mt. 28:18-20

*3. God uses those who proclaim His gospel. (1:1c)*

- those God chooses

Deut. 7:6-8

Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; Jn. 15:16; Acts 13:46-48

- but not knowing whom God has chosen...

1 Cor. 1:21

*4. God uses those who eagerly hear and heed His Word.  
(1:1d)*

- the transforming power of God's Word

Ezk. 37:3-10

- transformed into the likeness of the Lord

2 Pet. 1:5-11

*5. God uses those who eagerly await His fulfilled promises.  
(1:2-3)*

- the theme of the Bible

- God's promises from *long ages ago*

CONCLUSION