

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Chosen of God 1 Peter 1:1-2 Part Five**

There are certain people who thoroughly enjoy being terrified as long as they know that there is really nothing to fear at all. I remember as a young boy getting into a ride at a fair in Texas. I was placed into this rocket ship like contraption with a bar that came across my lap. Throughout the ride I was terrified. The only thing that kept from totally panicking was the thought that the ride was going to be over pretty soon and I had in my mind that I would likely be all right.

Our Christian life is like a carnival ride and it may at times bring us to the point of terror, but we will be able to hold it all together if we believe that there is a reasonable expectation that we will at the end of the ride get off safely.

Those that Peter were writing had become Christians. They had placed their faith and trust in Christ. They had got on board and were in the process of a very terrifying ride. The persecution under Nero had broken out and they were being severely persecuted for the faith. In order to help them get through this testing Peter wants to assure them that they will ultimately get off the ride and find themselves safely planted in the glory of heaven.

In order to help them understand this he introduces what theologians call the doctrine of election. He does this by addressing them as the “chosen of God” or the “elect of God.” To help us understand how this doctrine could minister comfort to these individuals we have been considering some of the various elements of election as presented to us in these two verses.

1. Essence of election
2. The basis of election
3. The outworking of election

This morning we will consider the last of the elements presented to us in this passage and that is the security of election. How can we really know that this whole thing is really going to be successfully pulled off.

#### SECURITY OF ELECTION

If we are going to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, if we are going to be set apart from sin unto God, the power of sin had to be broken. This leads us to a discussion of blood and its significance in the scriptures. We will look at the significance of blood from two different perspectives.

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### ITS POWER TO CLEANSE

The Bible teaches us very clearly in **Heb. 9:22** that **“without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.”**

The Old Testament sacrificial system stands as a clear testimony to the importance of blood in dealing with sin. The Lord under the Mosaic law required that animals would be continually slain and their blood shed in response to the sinfulness of people. Did the blood of these animals actually solve the sin problem? Did the blood of these animals actually result in the power of sin being broken? And the answer is of course not!!!

**Heb. 10:1-14, “For the law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. (2) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? (3) But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. (4) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (5) Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body thou hast prepared for me; (6) In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast taken no pleasure. (7) Then I said, “Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me To do thy will, O God,” (8) After saying above, sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast not desired, nor hast thou taken pleasure in them” which are offered according to the Law. (9) Then he said, “Behold, I have come to do thy will.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. (10) By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”** The repeated sacrifices in the old testament do not testify to the effectiveness of animal blood sacrifices to deal with sin but to their lack of effectiveness in dealing with sin. The repetitive animal blood sacrifices of the Old Testament were simply to form a backdrop to God’s perfect sacrifice which of course is the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus went to the cross to shed His blood the power of sin was broken. Jesus had perfectly atoned for sin. He opened a door to heaven through which men may enter. The veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was torn asunder.

This is why I have shared with you that if we are going to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, if we are going to be set apart from sin unto God not only in a perfect sense but in any sense, we would have to discuss blood. But not just anybody’s blood more specifically the blood of Jesus Christ.

**WE CAN TRY ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO GET THE STAIN OF SIN OUT OF OUR LIVES BUT THE ONLY THING THAT CAN WASH US CLEAN IS THE BLOOD OF JESUS. IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE TASK OF SANCTIFYING US HE CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THOUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALL POWERFUL HE CANNOT TRANSGRESS HIS OWN LAWS BY WHICH HE OPERATES. THE HOLY SPIRIT COULD NOT SANCTIFY US , SETTING US APART FROM SIN AND UNTO GOD APART FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS.**

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And this is exactly what we see in **1 Peter 1:1-2**, “**Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen. (2) According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.**” We cannot be brought to a victorious conclusion apart from coming into contact with His blood and being cleansed from our sin.

Our ultimate salvation is the work of the entire Godhead. God the Father has chosen us, God the Holy Spirit has been given the job of sanctifying us ultimately delivering us to the Lord Holy and Blameless, and God the Son has provided the Spirit with the necessary cleanser. This, of course, is His blood.

But we see more than just cleansing power of the blood of Christ. We also see its power to secure and seal.

### ITS POWER TO SECURE

We have been focusing on the word “blood.” And we have been considering the significance of the blood of Christ for our lives and it is applied to us by God the Holy Spirit. But for a moment I would like us to look at the word “sprinkle.” **1 Peter 1:2** reads “**According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.**” Why does the Spirit of God in leading Peter to write this passage use the word “sprinkle” rather than wash? When this question is asked we are immediately led to the imagery of the Old Testament. And more specifically to **Ex. 24:3-8** .... At mount Sinai, after the Israelites heard God’s word to them through Moses they said, “**Everything the Lord has said we will do**” (**V. 3**), Moses then sprinkled the altar and the people with blood, thereby bringing them into and sealing the covenant between them and God.

This established what is commonly referred to as the Old Covenant or Mosaic Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant or Old Covenant was based on human obedience. If they fulfilled the law then Israel would become a holy nation (**Ex. 19:5-6**). This was a covenant of obedience based on the obedience of Israel; inaugurated and sealed with the sprinkled blood of various animals.

When we come to **1 Peter 1:2** we see the same imagery as we saw in regards to the inauguration of the old covenant. And I believe that Peter when we read the phrase “**sprinkled with His blood**” wants us to think “covenant” but not the old covenant based on the obedience of the nation of Israel; inaugurated and sealed by the blood of animals but rather the “new covenant” which is based on the obedience of Christ inaugurated and sealed with His blood. Let us go back again to **Heb. 10:1-14** “**For the law (the old covenant), since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. (2) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? (3) But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. (4) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**”

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**(5) Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering thou hast not desired, But a body thou hast prepared for me; (6) In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast taken no pleasure. (7) Then I said, “Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me to do thy will, O God,) “..... (Jesus is going to do what the nation of Israel failed to do and that was to be obedient) (8) After saying above, Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast not desired, nor hast thou taken pleasure in them:” which are offered according to the Law. (9) Then he said, “Behold, I have come to do thy will.” He takes away the first (the old covenant) in order to establish the second (the new covenant) (10) By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”**

Know that our sanctification, our setting apart from sin unto God, in no way depends upon our obedience as the old covenant was dependent but rather our sanctification is totally dependent upon Christ's obedience. ESTABLISHING A NEW COVENANT, AN UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT, SEALED WITH CHRIST'S BLOOD. WILL GOD IN FACT BY THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT SAVE THOSE THAT HE HAS CHOSEN? YES!!! WE HAVE HIS PROMISE, CONTAINED IN THE NEW COVENANT, SEALED WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THAT THIS IN FACT WILL HAPPEN. THE BLOOD THEREFORE IS SIGNIFICANT NOT ONLY FOR IT'S POWER TO CLEANSE, BUT FOR IT'S POWER TO SECURE AS THE SEAL TO THE NEW COVENANT.

We have been talking about the various elements of election. We have seen the essence of election, which is God's sovereign choice. We have seen the basis of election which is “foreknowledge.” We have seen the outworking of election which is the “sanctifying work of the Spirit of God.” And we have seen the “security of election” which is the blood of Christ.

### CONCLUSION

God has chosen or elected certain individuals to be the recipients of special grace and eternal salvation. This is what the Scriptures teach. Peter, in the passage before us this morning, is addressing these individuals. We have learned that the essence of their election was God's sovereign choice totally apart from any merit on their part. We have learned that this choice was based in his foreknowledge of them. Not referring to a prior knowledge about them but rather to a prior relationship with them. We have learned that the work of making sure that they would be fully set apart from sin unto God is the work of the Spirit of God. We have finally learned that the security of this completed work by the Spirit rests in the Blood of Christ. In it's power to cleanse the elect from sin and to seal the new covenant.

Let us not resist the doctrine of election. Let us rather embrace it and enjoy the advantages of it.

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### ADVANTAGES OF ELECTION

It is a pride crushing doctrine in scripture. We have nothing to do with our salvation at all. It allows no room at all for boasting but only praise (**Eph. 2:8-9**)

It is a God exalting doctrine. **Ps. 113:4**, “**the Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens; Ps. 115:3 “Our God is in the heavens; he hath done whatsoever he hat pleased;” Ps. 135:6, “Whatsoever the Lord pleased that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”**

It is a hope inspiring doctrine. We may be weak, we may be frail, but we are also elect and we will be delivered to the glory of heaven. **Romans 8:29-30**, “**For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (30) And whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”**

This is the very reason I believe that Peter shared what he did,. **Romans 8:31-39**.