

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture reading and text: **1Peter 2:1-9** (esp. v9).
- B. Greetings, appreciations, and humbled to be classed with the fine men who have been here for gospel meetings in the past.
- C. This week, call the building, if you would like to see me; we shall not be commuting between Mattoon and Urbana.
- D. The emphasis this week is on the church and the importance of Christians knowing who they are and what they are. The power works in us, but sometimes we don't live it (Eph. 3:20-21).

I. CHOSEN ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

- A. Scripture text: 1Peter 1:1-2.
- B. Peter says three things make up our being the chosen (or elect) of God:
 1. It is according to the foreknowledge of God.
 2. By the sanctification of the Spirit.
 3. Due to our obedience to Jesus and being sprinkled with His blood.
- C. All things existed in the mind of God before they were created (Rev. 4:11):
The plant, animal and human kingdoms.
- D. Paul makes it clear that before Genesis 1:1 God wanted His chosen ones to be like Christ, and brought to Him by Christ (Eph. 1:3-10).
- E. Of this chosen race, Jesus was to have all sovereignty, rank, and power. This is the meaning of the term *first-born* (Rom. 8:29).
- F. The foreknowledge of God or predestination of God does not refer to a decision of salvation with no possibility of apostasy or a decision of damnation with no possibility of salvation.
- G. Paul illustrates God's great foreknowledge when he speaks of God's decision about Jacob and Esau (Rom. 9:10-12; Gen. 25:23). God saw two nations, not two boys.
- H. The church is not an accident, nor the kingdom yet to come. The church is the end product of God, the kingdom promised by the prophets and Christ Himself (1Pet. 1:10-12).
- I. The foreknowledge of God means we can be the elect race if we will become part of His great plan to redeem man through Christ in the church.

II. CHOSEN BY THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT.

- A. Scripture text: 1Peter 1:2.
- B. This choosing by God is spoken of as being done by the sanctification by the Spirit (2Th. 2:13,14).
- C. To be called by God is to listen to the call of the Spirit through the words (Ac. 2:39).
- D. The sanctification and calling by the Spirit has been going on since the days of the prophets in the OT times (Neh. 9:30).
- E. Today, under the guidance of the NT scriptures, Jesus works through the agent of the Holy Spirit will sanctify men (Jn. 17:17).
- F. Some may ask or think that baptism is what makes men sanctified. Others may point to Jesus blood as that which sanctifies; still others the word of God. All of these agree (1Jn. 5:7,8).
- G. Paul said, that by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. This is not baptism of the HS for that is never commanded. But it is by the instruction given by the HS that we are water baptized into Christ (1Cor. 12:13; Ac. 2:41).
- H. This is why the HS bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. If our spirit has not done what the HS says we are not Christians (Rom. 8:16).
- I. We are the chosen race by the foreknowledge of God, and the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

III. CHOSEN BY OUR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Scripture text: 1Peter 1:2.
- B. Remember that sanctification came by the Spirit and by faith in the truth (2Th. 2:13).
- C. For the word to have its sanctifying effect on our lives we must believe it with works appropriate, which is called faith (Jas. 2:18).
- D. Salvation has always been by faith, but not by faith alone:
 - 1. Abraham believed (Gen. 15:6).
 - 2. The righteous live by faith (Hab. 2:4).
 - 3. Men of old gained approval by their faith (Heb. 11:2).
 - a. The worlds were created (Heb. 11:3).
 - b. Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice (Heb. 11:4).
 - c. Enoch was taken up without death (Heb. 11:5).
 - d. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
 - e. Noah built the ark and condemned the world (Heb. 11:7).
 - f. Moses refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter (Heb. 11:24).
 - 4. Walk by faith not by sight (2Cor. 5:7).
 - 5. Walk by faith in the Son of God (Gal. 2:20).
 - 6. We are sons of God by faith in JC (Gal. 3:26).
 - 7. We are baptized by faith in the operation of God (Col. 2:12).
- E. Paul's mission to the Gentiles was that he desired for their sakes the obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5).
- F. Belief means obedience (Jn. 3:36).
- G. We do not obey any different doctrine today than what the early disciples obeyed and preached. There is a NT pattern (Rom. 6:17; 6:1-7).
- H. The initial obedience means we have been sprinkled in His blood (Heb. 9:24-26; 9:22).
- I. Now as the chosen race (Christians) by the foreknowledge of God, and by the sanctification of the Spirit, and by our obedience to Jesus Christ we continue to be sprinkled by His blood as we walk faithfully (1Jn. 1:6,7).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. After God's part in His election, and sanctification; and after we have done our part in the obedience of faith we can concur with Paul, "who can bring a charge against God's elect (chosen)?" (Rom. 8:31-39).
- B. Therefore, we ask the simple question, "Are you one of God's elect?"
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.