

Election

Ponder: The blessing of election

Scripture: “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Pet. 1:10, NKJV).

Will you be as happy as I will be when all the campaign ads are gone in a couple of weeks? I’m thankful God blessed us with the privilege of choosing those who govern us; but I confess to being weary of the mudslinging and scaremongering, regardless of who does it.

Those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ are blessed with another kind of election. God Himself has elected (chosen) us as His children. Fortunately, we didn’t have to run for office or prove that we’re better than other candidates. Rather, the basis of our election is being in Christ. “He (God) chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4).

Here’s the bottom line: Jesus is the Chosen of God. “Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased” (Matt. 12:18, quoting Isaiah 42:1). God determined from all eternity that He would save sinners through this Chosen One, Jesus the Christ. When you obeyed the gospel, being immersed into Christ, you were added to that chosen group. You didn’t deserve it; you didn’t earn it. But you certainly did comply with the Lord’s conditions for receiving His gracious gift.

Sorry to say, many religious teachers have turned the Biblical doctrine of election on its head. For example, John Calvin’s followers assert that election is unconditional. According to them, God picked and chose who would and would not respond to the gospel, much like picking petals from the proverbial daisy – “he loves me, he loves me not . . . this one shall be elect, this one shall not.” Of course that would mean God shows partiality, which Peter said He does not (Acts 10:34).

We obeyed the gospel of our own free will. Peter also exhorts us to “make your calling and election sure.” Yes, even one who is elect can stumble!

Thank God for Jesus, the Elect One! And thank God for the gospel, His power unto salvation, November’s election will come and go, but I hope we never grow weary of hearing about our own election in Christ!

Song: “Years I Spent In Vanity And Pride”

Prayer: Gracious Father, we marvel at Your love for us. You planned from all eternity to give Your precious Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We gladly confess Him as the Elect One, and we thank You for electing us in Him. We pray in His name, Amen.