

The Elect & Chosen

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Introduction

In the study of the church, we see the Greek word *ekklesia* (*ek-klay-see'-ah*) has been translated as church and means those called out to assemble. Other terms have also been used to identify born-again or regenerate believers placed in the body of Christ. The terms include Disciple, Elect, Chosen, Christian which is used in only one verse of Scripture, Brethren or Brothers, Sisters, and Saints are used to describe the individual members of the body of Christ. We exegete each reference of individual members of the church in the topical bible study section of our church website under ecclesiology.

The individual members we will study today are the Elect and the Chosen by God. Let's begin with our examination of the elect.

Elect

1588 ἐκλεκτός eklektos (ek-lek-tos')

from 1586; adj; TDNT-4:181,505; { See TDNT 431 }

NAS-choice (2), choice man (1), chosen (1), chosen (9), chosen one (1), elect (8).

AV-elect 16, chosen 7; 23

1) picked out, chosen

1a) chosen by God,

1a1) to obtain salvation through Christ

1a1a) Christians are called "chosen or elect" of God

1a2) the Messiah is called "elect," as appointed by God to the most exalted office conceivable

1a3) choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence preeminent: applied to certain individual Christians

1589 ἐκλογή ekloge (ek-log-ay')

from 1586; n f; TDNT-4:176,505; { See TDNT 431 }

NAS-choice (4), choosing (1), chosen (1), those who were chosen (1).

AV-election 6, chosen 1; 7

1) the act of picking out, choosing

1a) of the act of God's free will by which before the foundation of the world he decreed his blessings to certain persons

1b) the decree made from choice by which he determined to bless certain persons through Christ by grace

2) a thing or person chosen

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2a) of persons: God's elect

1586 ἐκλέγομαι eklegomai (ek-leg'-om-ah-ee)

middle voice from 1537 and 3004 (in its primary sense); v; TDNT- 4:144,505; { See TDNT 431 }

NAS-choose (4), chose (7), chosen (8), made a choice (1), picking (1), select (1).

AV-choose 19, choose out 1, make choice 1; 21

1) to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one's self

1a) choosing one out of many, i.e. Jesus choosing his disciples

1b) choosing one for an office

1c) of God choosing whom he judged fit to receive his favors and separated from the rest of mankind to be peculiarly his own and to be attended continually by his gracious oversight

1c1) i.e. the Israelites

1d) of God the Father choosing Christians, as those whom he set apart from the irreligious multitude as dear unto himself, and whom he has rendered, through faith in Christ, citizens in the Messianic kingdom: (Jas 2:5) so that the ground of the choice lies in Christ and his merits only

As we can see from the above definition of elect, *eklektos* is the chosen of God who are the ekklesia, those called out to assemble are the church. The word *eklektos* is also applied to Messiah, the *Anointed One* as the elect of God. Christ and Messiah are exactly the same. Christ is essentially the untranslated Greek word (*Christos*) which if actually translated into English would be Messiah or the Anointed One. There is also another similar words used to describe God's chosen and that is *ekloge* and *eklegomai*. Let's see how the words *eklektos*, *ekloge* and *eklegomai* are used in Scripture. The very first occurrence of the word *eklektos* is telling.

Matthew 22:14

"For many are called, but few are **chosen** <1588 *eklektos*>."

God and only God chooses or elects those He has called out of this world to receive His gift of Salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. All, and by all we mean absolutely 100% are **elected or chosen by God** to be saved and placed into the **body of Christ**. We do not choose God but rather it is God who chooses us. Being placed into the body of Christ is not be confused with those who attend a local church service. Attending church and being in the body of Christ are not synonymous. People who choose to attend a local church or become a member of a denomination may or may not be representative of God electing and choosing to give His precious gift of Salvation. In fact, there are probably many who regularly attend church services that are not chosen or elected by God for Salvation.

This is why Peter was inspired by God to write the following.

2Peter 1:10 KJAV

Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election <ekloge> sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

This verse is not cautioning against a loss of salvation which is impossible for eternal life cannot be eternal nor life be life if it can be lost. Rather, this verse is saying to make certain of your belief that indeed you have been elected by God. While we will not in this study examine the process Scripture teaches as how and why we ought to test, discern and judge our own eternal state in terms of Salvation, it is imperative that we have assurance "by God's standard" that we indeed bear the fruits of one saved by grace through faith in Messiah Jesus.

What we will briefly list some principles to be considered regarding evidence of Salvation.

1. Only God and God alone determines whether an individual is saved or is in a sinful and lost state.
2. Salvation is exclusively between each individual and God.

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3. No minister, priest or other servant of God can rightly tell you that you are saved. If anyone told you that you are saved, beware!
4. Repeating the “sinner’s prayer” that a minister asks you to “repeat after me” is neither true repentance nor an evidence of salvation. Prayer is not an incantation and no words can force God to act or give grace.
5. The mere act of a baptism is not an evidence of Salvation unless true repentance and a true indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit are present.
6. Indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit and living a regenerate life in Christ is the only evidence and fruit of Salvation.
7. Scripture teaches us we are saved by grace through faith for the purpose to do good deeds and doing good deeds in and of itself is not an evidence of Salvation.

Now, point number six is the only true evidence of Salvation. The other points listed above are also not to be seen as evidence that there is no Salvation either. Salvation is a private matter between each individual and God, and God grants each individual grace to know their state in sincerity and truth. 2 Peter 1:10 is the standard to apply. If you are not living a *regenerate* life in Christ which is the evidence of being a new spiritual creation, we suggest you examine yourself to determine which spirit you are in bondage to for we are either a servant of God and in bondage to righteousness or we are a servant of the flesh and in bondage to the ways of the world, there is no in-between according Romans, chapter 8.

There are some who falsely claim that the elect refers to ethnic Israel and the Jews and the instances where this is referred to in the gospels is speaking to the Jews and the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth. Such teachings are not supported by an exegete of Scripture and are an example of eisegesis, reading into Scripture doctrines one presumes to exist. Such unbiblical views concerning the Jews and Israel are a hallmark of dispensational theology in all its abhorrent variations. You can read about dispensationalism at our church website.

The early church in Judea was composed primarily of Jews who accepted Jesus as their Messiah. The elect are God’s chosen and saved people regardless of ethnicity that confess Jesus as Messiah. All the chosen speak of God’s chosen and this includes Christian Jews who embrace Messiah Jesus. While some take offense to the phrase Christian Jew, that is an accurate description of the first century church.

Romans 11:7

What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but **those who were chosen <1589 ekloge>** obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Christ is the Greek translation for Messiah and is God’s elect by whom we are all saved, whether Greek or Jew, whether from the Old Covenant or New. All are saved by grace through faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus. That was and is the only means of Salvation established by God since the expulsion from the Garden at Eden. Messiah Jesus was the only Chosen and Anointed One by God to restore man and his relationship to God.

Luke 23:35

And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His **Chosen One <1588 eklektos>**."

Scripture also refers to the angels who did not rebel and follow Satan as His chosen and elect.

1Timothy 5:21

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His **chosen <1588 eklektos>** angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

Angels are messengers of God that minister to His chosen people and Paul calls upon the angels to witness his teaching and exhortations. Let’s summarize in bullet points what the Scripture teaches us about the Elect.

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Summary

- The elect are God's chosen people set aside for Salvation and placed into the body of Christ from the Jews and the Gentiles and the Old Covenant and the New. (Mt 22:14; Lk 12:32; Ac 2:1, 24; 1Ths 1:4; 1Pet 2:9)
- The elect are the reason that all life on earth will not perish at the second coming of Christ. (Mt 24:22, 31)
- The angels of God will gather the elect before that great and terrible day of the Lord. (Mt 24:31)
- The end times mark a period of great apostasy and deception so as to deceive the elect if possible. (Mt 24:24)
- God brings about justice for His elect. (Lk 18:7)
- God chose the foolish to confound the wise, the weak to shame the strong and the lowly and despised to humiliate the lofty and popular. (1Cor 1:27-28)
- Messiah is God's elect, His Chosen One. (Lk 9:35, 23:35; 1Pet 2:4-6)
- Paul is God's elect, chosen to be an Apostle and Prophet to pen New Covenant Scripture. (Ac 9:15)
- Only God may bring charges against His elect. (Rom 8:33)
- God's elect are predestined and chosen well before their birth. (Acts 10:41; Rom 9:11; 2Ths 2:13)
- A remnant of ancient Israel was elected by God for Salvation. (Rom 11:5-7)
- God's election for non-believing Israel is to manifest His elect among the Gentiles and to fulfill Scripture. (Jn 13:18; Rom 11:28)
- God's elect are holy and beloved, and to put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col 3:12)
- God's elect are not to show partiality and bias in the application of Scripture and apostolic teaching. (1Tim 5:21)
- Church apostles and elders are to suffer for God's elect in bringing them to Salvation. (2Tim 2:10)
- God's elect are the faithful with knowledge of truth and godliness. (Titus 1:1; 2Jn 1:1)
- Be diligent to make certain our election by persevering in godliness. (2Pet 1:10)
- The elect and faithful are with God now and when He destroys the enemies of God and the 2nd coming of Jesus. (Rev 17:14)

Scripture

Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few are **chosen** <1588 eklektos>."

Matthew 24:22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the **elect** <1588 eklektos> those days will be cut short.

Matthew 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the **elect** <1588 eklektos>.

Matthew 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His **elect** <1588 eklektos> from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Mark 13:20 "Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the **elect** <1588 eklektos>, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Mark 13:22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the **elect** <1588 eklektos>.

Mark 13:27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His **elect** <1588 eklektos> from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

Lu 6:13 And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and **chose** <1586 eklegomai> twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:

Lu 9:35 Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, [My] **Chosen** <1586 eklegomai> One; listen to Him!"

Luke 18:7 now, will not God bring about justice for His **elect** <1588 eklektos> who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

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Luke 23:35 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His **Chosen One** <1588 eklektos>."

Joh 6:70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not **choose** <1586 eklegomai> you, the twelve, and [yet] one of you is a devil?"

Joh 13:18 ¶ "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have **chosen** <1586 eklegomai> ; but [it is] that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

Joh 15:16 "You did not **choose** <1586 eklegomai> Me but I **chose** <1586 eklegomai> you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Joh 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I **chose** <1586 eklegomai> you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Ac 1:2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had **chosen** <1586 eklegomai> .

Ac 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have **chosen** <1586 eklegomai>

Ac 6:5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they **chose** <1586 eklegomai> Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a **chosen** <1589 ekloge> instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Ac 13:17 "The God of this people Israel **chose** <1586 eklegomai> our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.

Ac 15:7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made <1586> a **choice** <1586 eklegomai> among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Ac 15:22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to **choose** <1586 eklegomai> men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas — Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,

Ac 15:25 it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select <1586> men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

Romans 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's **elect** <1588 eklektos>? God is the one who justifies;

Romans 9:11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His **choice** <1589 ekloge> would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

Romans 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious **choice** <1589 ekloge>.

Romans 11:7 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but **those who were chosen** <1589 ekloge> obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Romans 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's **choice** <1589 ekloge> they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

Romans 16:13 Greet Rufus, a **choice man** <1588 eklektos> in the Lord, also his mother and mine. strong,

1Co 1:28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has **chosen** <1586 eklegomai>, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

Eph 1:4 just as He **chose** <1586 eklegomai> us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Jas 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God **choose** <1586 eklegomai> the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

Eph 1:4 just as He **chose** <1586 eklegomai> us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been **chosen** <1588 eklektos> of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

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1Thessalonians 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His **choice <1589 ekloge>** of you;

1Timothy 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His **chosen <1588 eklektos>** angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

2Timothy 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are **chosen <1588 eklektos>**, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those **chosen <1588 eklektos>** of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,

Jas 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God **choose <1586 eklegomai>** the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

1Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen <1588 eklektos>**

1Peter 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is **choice <1588 eklektos>** and precious in the sight of God,

1Peter 2:6 For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A **CHOICE <1588 eklektos>** STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

1Peter 2:9 But you are A **CHOSEN <1588 eklektos>** RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

2Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and **choosing <1589 ekloge>** you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

2John 1:1 The elder to the **chosen <1588 eklektos>** lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

2John 1:13 The children of your **chosen <1588 eklektos>** sister greet you.

Revelation 17:14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and **chosen <1588 eklektos>** and faithful."