

Study Guide for September 16th, 2007: Chosen by God. Selected Scriptures.

Introduction: When have you been overcome (in a positive sense) by the fact that you were chosen? How did the fact of being chosen leave you feeling?

I. Give thanks for those who have been chosen. Fill in the blanks on the following. . .

A. II Thess. 2:13: "But we ought always to _____ God for you, brothers _____ by the Lord, because from the _____ God _____ you to be saved through the _____ work of the Spirit and through _____ in the truth."

B. I Thess. 1:4: "For we know, brothers _____ by God, that he has _____ you,"

C. To whom does Paul give credit for the fact of salvation among the Thessalonians?

D. What aspect of God's character is highlighted when Paul recalls God's choice?

II. Reflect on those God has chosen in the past.

In the following verses note who God chose and any reason given for his choice.

A. Gen. 12:12-3:

See also Acts 7:2-3:

B. Ex. 19:5-6:

See also I Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10:

C. Deut. 4:37-38, & 7:6-8:

D. Did inclusion in the elect people, Israel, guarantee eternal salvation? (see Rom. 9:6)

E. Luke 9:35 states, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." What are the implications when thinking about the doctrine of Election?

III. Praise God for those He chose in Christ.

A. Write out Eph. 1:3-6

B. According to these verses, to what purpose have we been chosen in Christ?

C. How is the same truth presented in Rom. 8:28-29?

IV. The fact of Election should motivate confident Evangelism.

Note the connection between Paul's evangelistic efforts and his assurance that God has elected some to salvation in Christ in the following passages.

- A. Acts 13:48:
- B. Acts 18:8-11:
- C. II Tim. 2:10:
- D. How should these truths cause us to think about our efforts to share the good news?

V. Dealing with Misunderstandings.

A. Respond to the following objections regarding the doctrine of Election.

1. Unbelievers never had a chance to believe.

- a) Matt. 23:37:
- b) John 5:40, 8:43-44:
- c) Rom. 1:20:

2. God is Unfair.

- a) II Pet. 2:4:
- b) Rom. 9:20-24:

3. Is God worse than unfair in passing over some and not saving them?

- a) Ezek. 33:11
- b) John 3:18-22:
- c) Matt. 11:25-26:
- d) Rom. 9:1-4:

Conclusion: "Election to salvation is viewed as a cause for rejoicing and praise to God, who is worthy of praise and receives all the credit for our salvation. But reprobation is viewed as something that brings God sorrow, not delight and the blame for the condemnation of sinners is always put on the people who rebel, never God himself." Wayne Grudem in Systematic Theology pg. 686.