

CHOSEN

1 Peter 1:1 “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect (chosen). . .”

Peter addresses his first letter to the Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. He calls them the elect (chosen.)” “Elect or “chosen” is how true believers in God are referred to in both the Old and New Testaments. Referring to someone in the Bible as “elect” or “chosen” has important spiritual truth.

In the immediate context of 1 Peter 1:1, the chosen were gentile Christians living in Asia Minor. God is the one who had chosen them to become believers in Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5 tells us the goal for God choosing them. He chose them to build them into “a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

The “chosen” are chosen by God rather than they choosing God. Jesus makes this point in John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you. . .” This is an important statement by Jesus. Today, there are those who preach and teach it is your personal responsibility, your personal choice, your personal decision to choose Jesus Christ. They say, you must invite Him into your heart. Note how such preaching and teaching does not agree with what Jesus taught. The fact is, it is impossible for a non-believer to choose to believe in Jesus because they are “dead in their trespasses and sins.” (Ephesians 2:1) Dead people are incapable of making any choice. 1 Corinthians 12:3 simply says “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” God chooses you. You do not choose God or His Son Jesus as your personal Savior.

God chose you! God called you to faith in Jesus. God the Holy Spirit, because of God the Father's love for you, gave you faith in Jesus by which you were saved and became a child of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9) This is why Jesus taught in John 15:4-5 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches.”

By the grace of God, by the Holy Spirit's gift of faith you are a believer in Jesus Christ, a forgiven sinner and have God's promise of everlasting life in heaven.

Prayer: Thank you, Heavenly Father for loving me and choosing me to become your child through Jesus Christ Your Son. In and through Him I give You my thanks and praise. Amen.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

No! Then this word must true remain; By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.

God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,

Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

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