

GOD CHOSE ME

I. The choosing of Peter.

- A. The first time we meet Peter, at least chronologically speaking, is in John 1:40-42.
 - 1. Andrew, Peter's brother, had spent time with Jesus.
 - 2. Andrew, and seemingly Peter, was a disciple of John the Immerser, and had Jesus pointed out to him by John (John 1:36).
 - 3. It did not take Andrew long to realize that Jesus was the Messiah and he was impelled to go tell his brother Peter.
- B. We learn something wonderful about Peter right off the bat.
 - 1. Peter was looking for the Messiah.
 - 2. He had not been sitting back waiting on God to find him and tell him something.
 - 3. He had been looking for the Messiah, and we are told that if we will seek, we will find (Matthew 7:7-8).
 - 4. Because of his seeking and the invitation of his brother, Peter got to meet Jesus.
- C. The next time we meet Peter, again chronologically, he is working at his profession of fishing with his brother (Matthew 5:18-20).
 - 1. This time, Jesus chooses Peter and Andrew, asking them to follow Him in order to become fishers of men.
 - 2. Thankfully, Peter and Andrew both quickly quit what they were doing and followed Jesus.
- D. Some time later we then read that Peter and eleven other men were chosen by Jesus to be His apostles.
- E. Jesus chose Peter, out of all the men He could have chosen, to be an apostle.
 - 1. What must be noted, is the choosing by Jesus, could never have been done if Peter had not chosen Jesus first.
 - 2. It was Peter who was looking for the Messiah and chose to accept Andrew's invitation to meet the Messiah.
 - 3. It was Peter who accepted the Lord's invitation to be made into a fisher of men.
- F. At either of those times, Peter could have said no and chosen not to have anything to do with Jesus.
- G. It was Peter's choosing of Jesus that allowed Jesus to choose him to be an apostle.
- H. Without Peter saying yes to Andrew and then Jesus, it would have been someone else who made the great confession, denied the Lord and preached on Pentecost.

II. The challenge to overcome.

- A. Sadly, there are many in the religious world that do not believe Peter made the choice to follow Jesus.
- B. A doctrine called Calvinism enslaves a vast majority of the denominational world today.

1. This doctrine, though easily defeated if studied, has done great harm and caused many to be lost over the previous four centuries.
 2. John Calvin devised this belief system while trying to reform the Catholic Church.
 3. You cannot reform something that is not right in the first place, thus Calvin, while trying to do good, did more harm.
- C. This doctrine has five main tenets known by the acronym, TULIP.
1. T- total hereditary depravity - men are born corrupt because of the sin of Adam and Eve.
 2. U - unconditional election - some are chosen by God to be saved and some to be lost.
 3. L - limited atonement - Jesus died only for those chosen by God to be saved.
 4. I - irresistible grace - those that are chosen and for whom Jesus died cannot resist this grace given them by God.
 5. P - perseverance of the saints - those that are chosen can never fall from God's grace.
- D. As you probably noticed, the point that is challenging for this topic is that of unconditional election.
- E. Notice this statement from Calvin: **"In conformity, therefore to the clear doctrine of the scripture, we assert, that by an eternal and immutable counsel, God has once for all determined, both whom he would admit to salvation, and whom he would condemn to destruction. We affirm that this counsel, as far as concerns the elect, is founded on his gratuitous mercy, totally irrespective of human merit, but that to those whom he devotes to condemnation, the gate of life is closed by a just and irreprehensible, but incomprehensible, judgment."**
- F. This is one statement, of which there are many, that we can use to see what this idea teaches.
1. It basically teaches that God foreordains each action that every man and woman takes and they have no choice.
 2. Man has no free moral agency in this idea.
- G. They use many verses to substantiate their claims.
- H. They use Acts 4:28.
1. They teach that the Jewish leadership did what God programmed them to do.
 2. All that the apostles were saying is that the death of Jesus was determined and not that those exact individuals would do it with no choice of their own.
- I. They also use Romans 8:28-30.
1. God's purpose is that all men be saved (vs. 28 + 1 Timothy 2:3-4).
 2. Also, the ones under consideration in this passage are those that love God, not those that God loves.
 3. God made plans for a certain class of people to be saved by the gospel.
 4. Those who obey the call are made in the image of Jesus.

- J. They also use Ephesians 1:4-5, 11.
 - 1. God has a certain group in mind: those in Christ (vs. 3).
 - 2. One gets into Christ by choosing to be baptized (Galatians 3:26-27).
- K. One last verse, although there are others, is John 15:16.
 - 1. Jesus said they did not choose Him, but He chose them.
 - 2. Who did He choose in this context: the apostles.

III. **The choice we have.**

- A. Despite this false doctrine by which we are challenged to defeat, each of us has a choice to make: to follow or not to follow Jesus.
- B. Peter had to make this choice when the Lord asked Him.
- C. We have to make this choice as well when the Lord asks us.
- D. How does the Lord ask us? Through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
 - 1. The gospel is preached and we hear it.
 - 2. We then have a choice to make: to follow or not to follow.
- E. The fact is God wants all men to be saved (John 3:16; 1 John 2:1-2).
- F. Peter wrote to the elect (1 Peter 1:1), who he later called a chosen generation (2:9).
 - 1. What made them elect and chosen?
 - 2. The decision they made to put on Christ in baptism allowed them to become part of the elect and chosen group called Christians.
 - 3. God elected and chose to save the group of people, a group to which all can belong, who obey the gospel.
- G. We preach so that men can have the information necessary to make a choice to accept or reject the gospel.
- H. Each of us must make this choice and then keep making it every day.