

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois
Adult Bible Class- "The Gospel of Eternal Election and Predestination"

Opening Hymn: 517 "By All Your Saints in Warfare" *stanzas 1, 8 (St. John), and 3*
VI. Election and Choosing in the General Epistles

A. 1st Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are *elect* exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the *foreknowledge* of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Verse 1: How does Peter describe himself? _____

Peter is an eyewitness of Jesus' earthly ministry and His bodily resurrection. He personally was chosen by Jesus to be one of His twelve apostles "sent ones." Peter uses both the human name and divine title for his Lord.

To whom is Peter writing this letter? _____

The "dispersion" describes Jewish people who had moved out of their homeland in Judea for one reason or another. The locations listed are in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). There were people from each of these places in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost to hear Peter's Holy Spirit inspired message (Acts 2:9-11). At this time, around 35 years later, there is no indication in this letter that Peter knows any people in these provinces personally.

How are we also "exiles"? _____

Verse 2: How is it that these people are "elect"? "according to the _____ of God" *Acts 2:23 (Peter's Pentecost sermon)* "this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and *foreknowledge* of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." (This is the only other use of this Greek noun in the New Testament.)

What is connected to each person of the Trinity in this verse?

God the Father- _____; **Spirit-** _____ (make holy)

Jesus Christ- _____ **and for** _____

"Grace" is the Greek greeting while "peace" is the Hebrew greeting. God is bountiful with these gifts to His people.

B. 1st Peter 2:9-10 (Dr. C.F.W. Walther's favorite passage)

⁸They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a *chosen* (eklekton) race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Verse 8: "They" refers to "those who do not believe" in verse 7. Those who teach double predestination will point to this verse as a proof text to show that God chooses people for damnation.

Verse 9: The New Testament people of God in Jesus have replaced the Old Testament Israel and thus have all its wonderful descriptions, chosen, royal and holy and its gracious attributes, race, priesthood, nation. **What is the 4th description of us in this verse?** _____

What is God's purpose for us? "that you may _____ the _____ of Him"
How does Peter describe God? "who _____ you out of _____ into His marvelous _____." Peter uses the familiar biblical image of darkness and light (common in John's writings) to describe what life was but now is for us.

Verse 10: Peter further describes our past and our present in language that comes from the Old Testament minor prophet Hosea.

Hosea 1:6-9 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. ⁷ But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen." ⁸ When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not My people, and I am not your God."

C. 2nd Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election (eklogen) sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verse 10: How can we make our "calling and election sure"? _____

The "qualities" Peter mentions are ones listed earlier in verses 5-7 as being a way to supplement our faith: virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

What does Peter mean by "you will never fall"? _____ When we are where the Holy Spirit is for us in God's Word & Sacraments, then we will not lose the faith.

Verse 11: When living this calling and election, practicing these qualities of the faith, to what can we look forward? "an _____ into the eternal _____"

Whose kingdom is it? _____

(This is one of six times outside of Paul's letter to Titus that the word "Savior" is applied to Jesus.)

D. 2nd John 1-2 and 13

¹The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever... ¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you.

Verse 1: "The elder"- At this point in his long life and close to the end of the first century AD John is the only one of Jesus' original apostles still living. His standing in the church enables him to describe himself in this way and have all of his readers know who is meant (John does not use his own name in his gospel either).

What would be the "elect lady and her children"? _____

As John expresses his love for the people of this congregation, what word qualifies that love?
_____ (the dirty word of our post-modern cultural and social mentality)

What three things does John teach us about "truth" here?

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Verse 13: How does John tell us that being chosen puts us into a larger family of faith?
"the _____ of your elect _____ greet you"