

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Red Bud, Illinois**

Adult Bible Class

*"The Gospel of Eternal Election and Predestination"*

Opening Hymn: 672 "Jerusalem the Golden"

III. Election or Choosing in the Gospels and Acts (continued)

B. Matthew 22:14 (Jesus said) "For many are called, but few are chosen (eklektoi)."

This sentence concludes Jesus' parable of the Wedding Feast where those invited to the celebration refuse to attend. Then, when the invitation is extended to the general public, one enters without the proper attire (even though provided by the host).

**What is contrasted in this verse?** \_\_\_\_\_

(The North Dakota version of this passage is "many are cold, but few are frozen.")

C. Luke 18:7 (Jesus said) "And will not God give justice to His elect (eklekton), who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them?"

**What is it that God will give to His "elect"?** \_\_\_\_\_ **What does that mean?**

**How does Jesus describe the "elect"?** those who \_\_\_\_\_ to Him \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the answer to Jesus' second question?** \_\_\_\_\_

D. John 15:16-19

Jesus is in the Upper Room with His disciples the night before His crucifixion.

<sup>16</sup>"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another. <sup>18</sup>"If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

**Verse 16: Who is choosing whom in this relationship?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What two things has Jesus "appointed" us to do?** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Can we do this fruit-bearing just once or twice and then stop?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Why not?**

**What is the benefit for us in being chosen to "bear fruit"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is Jesus' teaching us about prayer in this passage?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 17: What specific "fruit" is Jesus commanding of us?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 18: When hated by this rebellious world, what "comfort" or "consolation" do we have?**

---

In John's Gospel the word "world" means sinful humanity in unbelieving rebellion against its Lord, Master and Creator. In spite of this, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

**Verse 19: What would we have to be to be loved by this world?** \_\_\_\_\_

**But in being "of the world" what would we lose?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why is it that we are "not of the world"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the result of that choosing? “the world \_\_\_\_\_ you”**

**Do we like to be hated? \_\_\_\_\_ What then is the constant temptation we face?**

E. Acts 10:40-42

Peter is preaching about Jesus to a group of Gentiles as an invited guest in the house of the Roman soldier Cornelius in Caesarea.

<sup>40</sup> “but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”

**Verse 40:** The New Testament is roughly evenly divided between describing Jesus’ resurrection as “God raising Him from the dead” and “Jesus rising from the dead.” Within the mystery of the Holy Trinity both ways can be said and be completely true.

**Verse 41: To whom did Jesus not appear?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why didn’t the risen Jesus appear to Herod or Caiaphas?** (it would have been a great “in your face”) Think of Abraham’s words in Jesus’ “parable” in Luke 16:31, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead” and Jesus’ statement to Thomas in John 20:29, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

**What was the purpose of God’s choosing here?** “\_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Him after He \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_”

**Verse 42: What is the two-fold purpose of God’s choosing them, “He commanded us to: \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_; and to \_\_\_\_\_ that He is the \_\_\_\_\_ appointed by God to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_” (Creeds)**

#### IV. Election and Choosing in Paul’s Letters to Congregations

##### A. Romans 8:28-33

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

**Verse 28: How is God’s calling further described?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 29: What is the purpose of predestination?** “conformed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_”

**Verse 30:** The steps of our salvation begin with God’s eternal will and end with our eternal glory.

**Verse 31: What is the answer to Paul’s second question in this verse?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 32: What is Paul’s “proof” that God will give us all things?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 33: What is the answer to Paul’s question?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is his reason for this answer? “It is \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_” (makes us right)**