

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Class

“The Gospel of Eternal Election and Predestination”

Opening Hymn: 502 “Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven” *stanzas 1-2*

V. Election and Choosing in Paul's Pastoral Epistles

A. 1st Timothy 5:19-22

¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. ²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels (eklekton anggelon) I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

Verse 19: “An elder” is what we would call a pastor. **In order to “admit a charge” or accuse him of some wrongdoing, what must there first be? _____ Why?**

Deuteronomy 17:6 On the evidence of two witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

Deuteronomy 19:15 A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

Matthew 18:16 (Jesus said) “But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”

Matthew 26:59-61 Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put Him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”

2nd Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Verse 20: What also must there be before the church “punishes” the erring elder? _____

How are they then to be punished? _____

Why should such punishment be carried out in this way? _____

“The public rebuke of a guilty elder is intended for the good of all, namely, to foster a holy fear of sin and its consequences.” *Lutheran Study Bible, page 2076*

Verse 21: What is odd about the “Trinity” in this verse? _____

Why the use of the word “elect” to describe angels here? _____

The description of angels as “elect” is not found anywhere else in the Bible.

What does Paul see as a possible problem in this punishing? _____

Verse 22: What problems could result from a “hasty laying on of hands” (ordination)? _____

B. 2nd Timothy 2:8-10

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

In this last letter we have from the Apostle Paul (chronologically speaking), He is in a Roman prison expecting and awaiting his impending execution. This letter to his younger colleague in the ministry, Timothy, serves as Paul's "last will and testament" for pastoral ministry.

Verse 8: What is Timothy to remember? _____ (human name, divine title)

What two things are Timothy to remember about Jesus Christ?

_____ (divine) _____ (human)

How does Paul then describe those two things? "as _____ in my _____"

Verse 9: What two negative things have happened to Paul because of his gospel preaching?

Despite that, what does Paul celebrate? _____

Isaiah 55:11 "so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Verse 10: For this reason, Paul "endures _____ for the _____ of the _____"

Paul is confident that the troubles he is having and the suffering he is enduring is for the benefit of "the elect," meaning all Christians. As his letter is the inspired Word of God and recorded for us in the Holy Bible, we today are benefitting from it.

What does Paul see as the result of his enduring? "that they may _____ the _____ that is in _____"

The eternal glory is "the fulness and conclusion of Christ's salvation, when the resurrected elect will live eternally with Him." *Lutheran Study Bible, page 2082*

C. Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of (kata) the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which *accords with* godliness, ²in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

Titus is a younger ministry colleague of Paul, not mentioned in Acts and known to us only from his letters, whom Paul left on the Greek island of Crete, known for being a rough area, to establish Christian congregations and to train Christian pastors.

Verse 1: In what two ways does Paul describe himself? _____

What two purposes does Paul have for his ministry?

To whom does Paul see his ministry directed? _____

Faith and knowledge of the truth results in what for God's elect? _____

There is no verb in the Greek, just the preposition kata which was used earlier in the verse. The NIV translates it as "that leads to." AAT (Beck) translates it as "which promotes." The NKJV translates it as "which is according to." This better reflects the meaning of this preposition.

Verse 2: What "hope" do God's elect have? _____

When did God promise this for which the elect hope? _____

How does Paul describe God here? _____