

TITLE: Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation (Part 1)

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1:2a

THEME: Hope in The Doctrines of Election and Foreknowledge

NUMBER: 1PET03-1004

DATE: October 10, 2004

Read Passage

Don't mean to "honk my own horn" so to speak

But a lot of work has gone into this message (also others). This week I had to figure out a good outline, central idea of the passage, attempt to come up with something memorable - that in addit. to all the study w/all t/deep theol. truths in this one verse.

In struggling over a title & outline I found myself drawn to the letter "S" Not surprising; it may be my fav. letter. As a child I had my own speech therapist because I had a bit of a lisp. She was a pretty young woman & even at age of 10 I knew a good deal when I saw one - basically stay in t/classroom & learn math & history or spend some time w/a pretty young speech therapist alone in t/library. I chose t/latter & felt no particular compulsion to whistle my "s" when I could continue w/my lisp & stay w/young miss. Jones (whatever her name was). Eventually, tho, all good things must end & after singing my way through "Sandy Sells Seashells by the Seashore" I graduated & ended up back in Class w/Mr. Tibollo (who my mom thought was cute - irony!).

Back to my sermon outline dilemma

Came up w/several options building on the idea of God as t/Sov. Source of Our Salv. (note t/3 "S" there). I needed 1 more word to complete t/sentance - something that conveyed t/idea of hope (in keeping w/the theme of 1 Peter. Here were some options==>

Saluting the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

Stamina in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

Steadfast in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

Strong in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

(For you mothers): Sanity in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

Sissies Standing Solid in /Sov. Source of R. Salv. (just kidding!)

Event. I settled on: “Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation”

Satisfaction is a good word to use

One of my fav. quotes is from t/Puritan Divine Thomas Watson==>

“If there be enough in God to satisfy the angels, then sure there is enough to satisfy us. . . . Fresh joys spring continually from his face; and he is as much to be desired after millions of years by glorified souls as at the first moment. There is a fulness in God that satisfies, and yet so much sweetness, that the soul still desires. God is a delicious good.” [“Man’s Chief End” in A Body of Divinity]

Psalm 90:14 **O satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness, That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

For our purposes => Satisfaction serves as a synonym of sorts for Hope.

Maybe I should say that while t/two are different they are intertwined: Where there is true hope in God there is satisfaction & where there’s true satisfaction in God there is hope.

My main idea for the next two weeks or so ==>

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit, and the Saving Grace of the Son. What we see in this single v. - actually a Trinitarian formula (Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies; Son Saves)

We are going to cont. using our “S”==>

I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of Our Salvation (1:2)

A. Selected by the Father (1:2a)

B. Sanctified by the Spirit (1:2b)

C. Saved for Service by the Son (1:2c)

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, with the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling with his blood. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

We're basically going to look at some theological issues next two weeks & then we will weave those concepts back into t/text.

I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of Our Salvation (1:2)

A. Selected by the Father (1:2a)

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

1. Translation Issue (mentioned this last week)

Some translations don't have t/word chosen (elect) in v. 2 at all (NASB which puts it at end of v. 1). Some trans. don't use t/word at all in v. 1 but place it in v. 2 (KJV & RSV). Some trans. use it twice: 1x in v. 1 & 1x in v. 2 (NIV uses it to modify 'strangers' in v. 1 & in assoc. w/'foreknowledge' in v.2).

In t/Gk. text t/word isn't found in v. 2 at all (only in v. 1). It's there to modify word "strangers" (Chosen strangers).

a. This passage is a little tricky as it is

In vv. 1-2 there's only 1 verb (not until t/opening blessing at end of v. 2). If you discount that there are no verbs. There are 23 nouns. Tough passage to deal with. Really have 1 major sentence comprised of 21 nouns, 1 adjective & no verbs. Make your English teacher recoil in horror! Obv. we're dealing with 1st c. Koine Gk. where you have nouns that commonly funct. adverbially + prep. & pronouns w/give verbal ideas

b. We have a word: ἐκλεκτος - Elect, Chosen

It occurs in v/1 modifying "strangers" & then we get to v. 2 where it says

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...

Since we have no verb to modify "foreknowledge" in v. 2 it is natural to let t/concept of God's choosing leak into verse 2 as well.

All this to say that I think t/NIV has it best when they use t/word twice even tho it's found only once==>

To God's elect, strangers . . . who have been chosen according to [His] foreknowledge...

Idea is that God's pretemporal choice of these believers (by extension, of you) includes not only their salvation, but all of their circumstances as well: Fact that they are "strangers" (saved among t/lost) "scattered" (are living away from home) - even their suffering has been divinely appt. for them by a loving Father).

2. The Issue in All of This Centers on Their Salvation

Wouldn't be "strangers" if God hadn't chosen them for salvation (they would be t/lost among t/lost & right at home w/the masses) // "scattered" if G. hadn't chosen them for S. (fact that they were living where they were was largely because they were Xns) // Certainly wouldn't be suffering if G. hadn't chosen them for S. since t/very reason they were suffering was due to t/hostility that raged against them because of JC.

In spite of t/Scattering // Suffering // fact they were Strangers" They were to have HOPE. True for you as well. No matter where you live // no matter how out of place you feel in t/world around you // matter how much you are suffering – there is Hope.

I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of OUR Salvation (1:2)

A. *[We have been]* Selected by the Father (1:2a)

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

1. The Word is ἐκλεκτος (used in 22x in NT)

ἐκλεκτος = BAG - "Chosen, select [used] gen[erally] of angels 1 Ti 5:21 . . . Of the Messiah . . . Luke 23:35 . . . esp. of those whom God has chosen fr. the generality of mankind and drawn to himself . . .

Used in classic literature of individual soldiers who were "the chosen" - that is, they were chosen or drafted for special service.

In t/NT it always refers to persons chosen/selected by God from w/i a larger group. Chosen for something, namely chosen by God for salvation

Same word is used by Jesus in Matthew 22:14==>

For many are called, but few are chosen (ἐκλεκτός). [The gospel goes out to many, but only some respond]

Used in Mark 13:20 (of the tribulation) ==>

And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect (ἐκλεκτός) **whom He chose, He shortened the days.** [Who are the "elect?" They are those whom God chose!]

What does it mean to be elect/chosen? It means that if you are a Xn it's ultimately from God's perspective because He chose you.

This isn't a truth to be vilified // misrepresented // resented. This is among God's grandest revelations about our salvation. God authored it, therefore it is good. God authored it, therefore it is to His glory. Not God did 85% & I did 15% If that were true then you could give yourself 15% of t/glor. Can't. 100% of Him.

To be ἐκλεκτός is to be chosen by God. Chosen for Salva. That simple!
"From eternity past, God has had a large body of believers in mind whom He chose to love (1 John 4:10...), to save from their sin (Eph. 2:1-5...), and conform to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29...). And each one of those names, from every nationality and every era of history, God specifically secured in eternal purpose before the world began." [MacArthur, 17-18]
You responded to God because God responded to you first. He opened your eyes; He softened your heart; He made the foolishness of the Gospel the power of God to you for your salvation. Then you freely responded to Him in faith. GREAT COMFORT IN THAT (I believe that's why Peter begins his epistle affirming this wonderful truth).

Going back to the "S" again!

2. Seven Scriptural Statements about the Selection of the Saints

Seven biblical facts about divine election

Really wanted to go thru all of these this AM as I know some of you will get fidgety over this issue & you need to keep from making a judgment until you have t/entire picture. For others of you this is no big deal, you know what election is about & you accept it for what it is. Unfort., we will only get through 1st two points this A.M. we'll save rest for next wk

Caveat - I don't pretend to have all of this figured out. There's a point of tension here--a point where you & I have to let God be God & simply affirm what is taught in His Word (something to which I am committed).

a. #1 Election is unto salvation

BTIM we are individually elected or chosen for salvation.

(1) 2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

*Who does the choosing here? - God

*Who does God choose? - You (Individual believers)

*He has chosen indiv. believers for what? - For salvation (to be saved)

* When? "From the beginning"

(2) John 6:37-44

"draw" (6:44) = ἐλκευω - "to draw or drag". Used in Acts 16:19 Paul and Silas being "dragged" before the authorities in the marketplace. Strong word. Idea of an irresistible force; used in Gk lit. of a desp. hungry man being drawn to food, & of demonic forces being drawn to animals when they were not able to possess men [MacArthur, Ephesians, 11]

I can't be any more clear can it? No one can come to Jesus Christ unless God the Father draws him/her to X.

"We pursue God because and only because He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit." [A.W. Tozer]

(a) Three impossibilities from John 6:37-44

1. Impossible for anyone to come to X unless t/Father draws him [That's Election, v 44]
2. Impossible for someone whom God draws not to come to X [That's Irresistible grace, v. 37]
3. Impossible for t/one who comes to X to later be cast out from Him [That's Perseverance of the Saints, also in v. 37]

Could also look at John 6:65 **For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.** [Note response 6:66 - as a result of this many of his disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. A lot of ppl. didn't like it then just as many don't now]

John 10:26-29 - **"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.** [Sheep are not an empty class: they hear, know, believe, trust, follow, love the shepherd.]

(3) People will argue - "I chose God."

"I came to a point in my life where I believed on JC for my salvation." Hey, no argument here! But t/fact is that you chose Him because He first chose you. He responded to you; that's why you responded to Him.

(a) Parallel to the calling of the disciples

Matt. 4:18-20 **As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.** *Jesus gave an invitation; the disciples freely responded.*

But listen to what Jesus later says in John 16==>

You are my friends if you do what I command. . . . I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear

fruit—fruit that will last. [You didn't choose me; I chose you!]

It's like an illustration I once heard ==>

As a Xn you look back at your life and you see different circumstances that brought you to a saving knowledge of JC: (family background, friends, personal difficulties, church, a radio or TV show, something you had read). Then you see how God was working in your life long before you came to the actual point of belief. It's like you had come to a single great doorway in an endless wall, there are Jesus' words: "I am the door, who ever enters in will be saved". And so, you receive t/invitation and enter through t/door. Then, you look back at t/wall behind you & t/door is gone. It's just a solid wall on which t/words are written: "Chosen in him before the foundation of the world." [adapted from Henry Morris/Martin Clark, The Bible Has the Answer, 142]

Someone may argue: "What about Judas-was he chosen?"

John 13:18 "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'" Was Judas chosen? Not unto salvation.

[a. #1 Election is unto salvation]

b. Election is unconditional

It doesn't depend on anything other than God's good pleasure. Not dependent on our works // foreseen faith. It's based on nothing other than God's sovereign will to His glory.

The Dictionary of New Testament Theology (dictionary of Greek words and their meanings), says this ==>

"If it be asked what are the principles which underlie God's choice, the only positive answer that can be given is that he bestows his favour upon men and joins them to himself solely on the basis of his own free decision and his love which is not dependent on any temporal circumstances." [DNTT, 1:542]

(1) Ephesians 1:3-6

Note that $\epsilon\kappa\lambda\epsilon\gamma\omega$ is an aorist middle which indicates God's independent or unconditional choice. Could be translated: "to pick for oneself."

(2) Opposing Arguments

I know that some people argue that this refers to the CH. That is, God chose the CH as an entity, not individual people. My response is simple. "That's not what it says!" Word always refers to people, not an entity like a CH or foreseen faith.

Besides, if you believe that you have same problem as those who hold to theory of "dynamic inspiration of Script." (belief that t/thots are inspired but not t/words). You can't have inspired thoughts w/o inspired words. ISW you can't have an elect church apart from elect individuals.

(a) Foreknowledge

Another more commonly held argument is that God chooses us by way of his foreknowledge. They will appeal to our passage in 1 Peter==>
[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...

Same sort of thing in Romans 8==>

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son . . .

Classic Arminian view which equates God's foreknowledge to what is called prescience, akin to His omniscience.

In relating foreknowledge to election, one author who holds this position
"..*having set forth these conditions for being in Christ, God foreknows from the beginning who will and who will not meet them. Those whom He foresees as meeting them are predestined to salvation.*" [Jack W. Cottrell, "Conditional Election," in Grace Unlimited, ed. Clark H. Pinnock (Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1975), 61.]
IOW - "God looks ahead and chooses those who choose Him."

Sounds good at first. Problem is, it's not true. Not true for at least two reasons==>

i. #1 It's Bad Theology

God doesn't have foreknowledge in sense of prescience alone--He's not a divine fortune teller who predicts random future happenings (he's active/not reactive).

God at once has complete knowledge of all things past present & future. To say that God at some point "looked ahead" is an attempt to define God by our human terms/reasoning.

There's no such thing as "God looking ahead" because there is no "ahead" with God. God is omniscient which means that he knows all things at once.

St. Augustine: "But what is future to God? For, if divine knowledge includes all things at one instant, all things are present to Him and there is nothing future . . ." [Concerning Diverse Questions, 2.2.2]

Puritan Stephen Charnock "God considers all things in his own simple knowledge as if they were now acted; and therefore some have chosen to call the knowledge of things to come, not prescience or foreknowledge, but knowledge; because God sees all things at one instant." [God's Knowledge]

Great Theologian W.G.T. Shedd (who spent much time in this State in 1800s when Clarkson CH was in its infancy)====> "The infinite mind comprehends all things in one simultaneous intuition, and, consequently, there is for it no 'before or 'after.'"

ii. #2 It's Not What the Word Means

1 of great dangers in biblical interpret. is to restrict biblical words to English definitions. Like word "firstborn" meaning of which goes beyond idea of being "born first." (ppl. will apply that to X from Col. & use it as an argument to deny his divinity). Same thing here.

* Word Used Here in 1 Peter is πρόγνωσις

This particular word is only used 2x in NT - the other use is in Peter's sermon in Acts 2:23 where it is used of Jesus being ==>

. . . delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.
(it's connected w/God's predestined plan; doesn't mean "looked ahead")

To understand what this word means you have to go back to OT & Hebrew עָרַף - עָרַף means to know w/experience or intimacy.

Used of a sexual union (Gen. 4:1) // personal friendship (Gen. 29:5) // knowing good from evil (Gen. 3:5) // knowing the true God (Jer. 3:22).

Greek words for knowing/foreknowledge carry same idea given same context. Much deeper than our English word "know." Biblical words imply intimacy & relationship.

See that in Matthew 1:25, speaking of Joseph's relationship to Mary in that "he kept her a virgin." In t/Greek text it's lit. "he did not know her."

Biblically, to foreknow implies a relationship. "To foreknow is to forelove."

We see that in Rom. 11. TAP is wrestling w/issue of Israel rejected her Messiah. If salvation was from t/Jews & for t/Jews why did they reject JC? Is God done with Israel? Has God or His Word failed?

11:2 [No] God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew...

Not that God has a crystal ball; God knew them before they were a people. They were, are, and will be part of His plan. Intimacy.

* Let Peter Speak for Himself (1 Peter 1:20)

For He [Christ, v. 19] was foreknown before the foundation of the world but has become appeared in these last times for the sake of you.

Does foreknowledge in this context mean that God had no absolute plan-no causative personal relationship to mission of X? Would be absurd to say that God looked ahead & saw Jesus. What God foreknows He causes. It's God's active & intimate involvement in bringing to pass what he desires as it relates to those He loves.

"When applied to God's knowledge of persons (whether of Jesus or his people), 'foreknowledge' is more than mere prescience, it involves choice or determination as well . . ." [Michaels, 10]

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

(3) Three Reasons Why This is Important

Why t/HS inspired Peter to add this concept here & what this has to do w/Hope & encouragement & being satisfied in t/suffic. grace of God. Three very brief points

(a) God's foreknowledge demonstrates His Love

In similar way that JC was "foreknown" by God in sense that t/Father has eternally set His love upon Him (1 Peter 1:20), you have been foreknown by t/Father in that He has chosen to love you from all eternity.

"Before evening and morning made the first day, your name was in His book. Before the world's foundation was laid, Christ shook hands with the Father in the council chamber of eternity and pledged Himself to redeem you and to bring you and multitudes of others into His eternal glory." [C.H. Spurgeon, Grace, Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1996, 22]

(b) God's foreknowledge demonstrates His Sovereignty

God's all-powerful control over all things includes more than the fact that He knows what's going to happen. He's not "looking ahead" & planning His course accordingly. His plan is unconditional, perfect, & it's complete. It is good.

Ephesians 1:5-6 **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

(c) God's foreknowledge demonstrates His Care

Predestination apart from foreknowledge might imply impersonal fatalism. However, God is not a God of impersonal fatalism but a God who is intimately involved with His creation and in His plans for it.

Gifted Baptist theologian of t/18th c. John Gill writes: "This [concerns] the everlasting love of God to his own people, his delight in them, and [approval] of them; in this sense he knew them, he foreknew them from everlasting, affectionately loved them, and took infinite delight and pleasure in them." [cited in The Grace of God and the Bondage of the Will, 319]

There's hope. God has pleasure in His people. If you know JC it's because t/living God foreknew you & takes infinite delight & pleasure in you because you take delight & pleasure in Him.

I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of OUR Salvation (1:2)

A. *[We have been] Selected by the Father (1:2a)*

We have so much more to look at - we've just painted a part of t/picture on this lofty doctrine. You need to be here next week for part 2 as we finish looking at ==>

2. Seven Scriptural Statements about the Selection of the Saints and how this relates to t/rest of v. 2.

Same Apostle Peter who wrote these encouraging words also wrote in his 2nd Epistle==>

1:10 . . . be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you . . .

God will save all of those who sincerely cry out to him for mercy

Chuck Swindoll tells the following story==>

"I shall never forget [a letter I received] from a young woman who had reached the absolute end of her rope. She had checked into a motel, planning to take her life. Throughout the night she sat on the side of the bed and mentally rehearsed her miserable existence. She had endured numerous failed relationships with men and had several abortions. She was empty, angry, and could see no reason to go on. Finally, just before dawn, she reached in her purse and pulled out a loaded pistol. Trembling, she stuck it in her mouth and closed her eyes. Suddenly the clock radio snapped on. Apparently the previous occupant had set the radio to come on at that precise time on that precise station . . . and the musical theme of "Insight for Living" filled the room. The uplifting sounds startled her. She tried to ignore it, but couldn't. She heard my voice and found herself strangely attracted to the message of new hope and authentic joy that she had never heard in her entire life. Before the 30 minute broadcast ended, she gave her life to Jesus Christ." [cited in Laugh Again, 167-68]

That is how our sovereign God works. Are no coincidences w/Him If

you want to have t/hope that comes from knowing God thru JC He's only a prayer away. Confess your sin to Him & believe on JC alone to be your Savior & Lord. He will make your life new & fill you w/Hope