

**TITLE: Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation (Part 4)**

**PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1:2**

**THEME: The Doctrine of the Trinity and Salvation from 1 Peter 1:1-2**

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### *Read Passage*

I can't tell you how much I have been wrestling with this part of the passage & what I have had planned to do with it. My goal was to spend a week or two on t/doctrine of the Trinity. This passage affords itself a good opport. for that since we find a Trinitarian formula in v. 2.

But my penchant for thoroughness, (perfectionism) has really frustrated me. I just cannot short-cut my way through what I consider to be a half-baked job of study. I can be really stubborn on this sort of thing. I would write papers in college and graduate school that would be graded down because I made them too long. But if I thought that to do it right was making it 18 pages, I made it 18 pages.

I feel compelled to spend hour after hour studying & reading volumes of pages so that I have covered every base. Often I find my week slipping away from me & I'm no where near where I want to be as far as complete & perfect study is concerned. That's where I am this a.m.

### *So I covet your prayers & patience*

The good news is that I will almost always be a diligent student and a well-prepared teacher. Bad news is that if I find myself under the 8 ball, rather than throw something together, I will find something that I've already studied so that I can at least do a good job preaching - problem is it may sound familiar to you as I may have preached on that very passage before.

Or I may choose to milk a passage for all it's worth rather than move on to something that I don't feel adequately prepared to teach on.

## *Last week we went a little long (about 65 minutes)*

This am. I hope to make it up to you a little bit & finish early for a change. Appreciate it, but don't get used to it!

Been a few weeks since we've been in 1 Peter, so by way of review . . .

### *Main idea ==>*

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit, and the Saving Grace of the Son.

This passage is one that reflects t/trinity of God (that is, it's a passage that give us a glimpse of t/Trinity). It a passage where we see all 3 members of t/Godhead actively involved in a creative work - that is, making us new creations in JC.

Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies; Son Saves. We've said that this is a central aspect of our hope as believers==>

## **I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of Our Salvation**

It is t/Father who chooses us to be saved. In t/annals of time He chose us before we ever chose Him (we chose Him because He chose us).

This is the work of the 1<sup>st</sup> person of the Trinity - We have been==>

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

We have been (in the past) "chosen"

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

#### **1. Noted Some Time Ago - Translation Issue Here**

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).

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. (not uncommon in 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 ==>  
**according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...**

Because we don't have anything to go with foreknowledge in v. 2 by itself [^] - I believe it's best to repeat t/idea of God's choice there also.

I believe t/NIV has it best when they use t/word twice:

To God's elect, strangers . . . who have been chosen according to [His] foreknowledge... (foreknowledge includes causation - it's more than to know beforehand; it's to foreordain, it's based on a relationship - to "forelove")

It's like the song, "When he was on the cross I was on his mind"

For He knew me yet He loved me

He whose glory makes the heavens shine.

So unworthy of such mercy.

Yet when He was on the cross, I was on His mind.

The look of love was on His face and thorns were on His head

The blood was on His scarlet robe and stained a crimson red

Though His eyes were on the crowd that day, He looked ahead in time

For when He was on the cross, I was on His mind.

[Words and Music: R. Hinson and M. Payne]

That's t/idea - when He was on t/cross you were on His mind. You were part of t/plan from all of eternity & His death was specifically designed

to pay for your sin.

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

Look at t/passage (v. 1) - Wouldn't be "strangers" if God hadn't chosen them for salv (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. as very reason they were suffering was due to hostility that raged against them because of X.

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. A loving father has his hand upon you & has had his hand upon you from all eternity - from before you even existed in time.

God loved you w/an eternal love, not because of anything good in you, but in spite of you. In spite of me.

Listen - He knew how rotten you and I could be & still He chose to redeem us to himself, to endure w/us, to be patient w/ us, always working to perfect JC in us. It's what in the Hebrew Language is called his "lovingkindness" (Hesed) - used in 239 verses in t/OT (% in Psa.). "Covt. faithfulness."

God's L.K. is "salvation" (Psa. 6:4, 13:5, 31:16). It is everlasting (Psa. 107:1). He chose us in His lovingkindness. That's humbling.

["The most humbling truth in all of Scripture."](#) [MacArthur, 25]

**a. If it's humbling then we should be what?** "humble!"

W/O exception, every trouble-maker I have ever known in t/CH has had a pride problem. Humble people make very good servants; Arrogant

people make trouble.

It's like the story about a small commuter plain carrying only three passengers: A pastor, a young boy, and a famous Hollywood actor. In the middle of the flight, the plane began to shudder and shake. The pilot came out and announced to the two passengers that the plane was going down and there were only 3 parachutes on board. I pilot added, "I should have one of the parachutes because I have a wife & 4 kids at home." So he quickly took a parachute and jumped. The Hollywood actor looked at the pastor and the boy and said, "I should have one of the parachutes because I am far more important than you two. As a Hollywood actor I'm not only famous and a millionaire, but I am an important activist who is much more intelligent than the average American." So the actor took a parachute and jumped.

Well, the pastor looked at the young boy with a smile and said, "I've lived most of my life already and you are still very young, so you hurry and take the last parachute and I'll go down with the plane."

The boy scout smiled back at the pastor and replied, "Don't worry sir, the guy who is knows so much more than the average American just jumped from the plane wearing by backpack."

Sometimes I wonder if the only wood in Hollywood is firmly lodged between the ears of the performers who live there! Yeah, I do have an axe to grind against Hollywood, get it? (pun).

## **(1) Seriously - Humility is at the top of God's list as far as our hearts are concerned**

Why it's at top of t/list as far as what the leadership in the church values among the body. Love w/o Humility becomes empty words and actions.

Been times that I have told someone I was acting out of love & friendship while in t/process I was mowing them down w/my arrogance. The claims to "love" & "concern" were like empty shells. Are two people that stand out in my life that I confronted but in doing so did not respond out of true love/humility. And I regret that. These are failures on my part. I'm grateful that I very recently had t/opp. to apologize to one of those men who graciously accepted that apology. (cf. Rom.

12:18).

I'm always learning "humility" - As I've said many times, the men I most admire have been humble men.

One of those men I wrote a tribute to - James M. Boice who died in his sleep on Thursday, June 15, 2000, only eight weeks after learning that he had terminal liver cancer. In his preaching prime at 61, Dr. Boice received the news of his condition on Good Friday, only two hours before stepping into the pulpit to deliver a sermon on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Two weeks later, on May 7, he stood before his congregation, informed them of his condition, and asked the question, "If God does something in your life, would you change it? If you'd change it, you'd make it worse. It wouldn't be as good."

When I learned of Boice's passing I literally cried and asked God, "Why not me?" Here's a great man who is being used in such a great way, why not take me instead?"

For some strange reason this man so impacted me that I told Lois that if we were to have a baby boy we would name him "Boice." Several mo. later we found out that Lois was going to have a baby and Giana, according to my calculations, was supposed to be a boy named "Boice."

Reid Ferguson, over at Evang. CH. of Fairport, told me recently that their church was scheduled to have Boice speak at a conference they were hosting. In typical fashion, this man refused to accept plane fare, saying that he could drive his own car from Philadelphia to Rochester. This from a man who is known worldwide, who pastors a large, prominent church, who has written dozens of books. "Don't worry about buying me a plane ticket, I'll drive."

How many so-called Xn celebrities today would do that?! Don't buy me a plane ticket, I never fly commercial I charter my own jet - you can pay for that. " Or, "Yeah, buy me a ticket, make sure it's first class or I won't come."

God please help us have the attitude that was echoed by a Puritan saint of generations ago who once prayed:

“Grant me never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, and the exceeding wonder of grace. I am guilty but pardoned. I am lost but saved. I am wandering but found. I am sinning but cleansed. Give me perpetual broken-heartedness. Keep me always clinging to Thy cross.” [cited in MacArthur, Matthew 1-7, 394]

Why I say that ==>:

**[(1) Humility is at the top of God’s list as far as our hearts are concerned]**

1PE 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for \God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble\.

PRO 16:19 It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Knowing that we have been==>

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

He chose us for Himself & that it has nothing to do w/how good or smart or useful we are, solely by God’s good pleasure for His glory is humbling.

Didn’t I also say that it ==>

**3. Should Bring Us to Our Knees in worship?**

God does 100% t/work in our salv. & therefore gets all 100% glory. Not a 90/10 split (God does 90%, you do 10). Not a 95/5 or 99/1 or a 99.9/0.1. Psa. 37:39; Jonah 3:9 “Salvation is of the Lord” (Him alone).

Why Jesus even died for your unbelief. Your unbelief was among t/greatest of sins for which X could atone. He died to purchase your faith. The cross purchased even your faith // atoned for your unbelief.

So many act as if t/cross paid for every sin except that of unbelief. If that's true then your belief was a work that you added to grace. Thank and praise yourself. Never! Even your unbelief was purchased & because it was purchased your unbelief was done away with that you could believe & be saved.

## [I. "Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation"]

But that source is actually three-fold. We have been==>

### [A. Selected by the Father]

Also been ==>

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

Remember==>

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit . . . Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies . . .

That's the work of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity.

**[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father WITH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT . . .**

## 1. Word is *ἁγιασμος* - basically means to be set apart as holy

In that sense, we have been set apart by God, in his eternal plan, to be holy unto Him. It's the work of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity - God the Holy Spirit - to draw us to X. It's what we call "Effectual Calling."

### a. Like I said three weeks ago -

The entirety of our salvation consists of several parts.

In the church we tend to use the word salvation w/o really appreciating all the word encompasses. Yes, It's so simple that a child can grasp it, but so profound that a theologian can't exhaust it.

That fact that you sit here this morning as a true Xn entails more than simplicity of Gospel - that you, point in time, believed & were saved

from your sin--& unto eternal life.

It started in t/mind & purpose of God as he chose you in t/annals of eternity past. What we saw in election.

But it doesn't end there. Election doesn't make us saved. It guarantees it, but doesn't complete it.

God chose us in the past, but he calls us in present.

God calls us outwardly when we hear the gospel==>

That's Romans 10:13-14==>

13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD will be saved." 14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

The outward call goes to everyone who hears w/their ears. Then there's an inward call. That's the call that strikes t/fertile ground of the heart. It goes past the ears to the very soul.

Acts 16:14 ==>

And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

## **b. The Entire Process (for lack of a better term)**

Election → Outward Call → Inward Effectual Call → Regeneration → Faith → Justification

Bringing you to that point of faith so that you may be justified is t/work of H.S. This is what it means here ==>

**chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father WITH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT . . .**

Titus 3:5 He saved us . . . according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

That's t/effectual (effective or irresistible) call of the Holy Spirit. Also his work in regenerating your heart so that you could believe and be saved. irresistible (irresistible grace). You were like Lazarus & God called you forth. That is specifically a work of t/Holy Spirit.

It's like what Paul wrote in 1 Thess 1:4-5

He speaks of their election in v. 4 ==>

knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

Then he refers to how they were saved in v. 5 ==>

for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . .

[I. "Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation"]

We said that the "Source" is three-fold. We have been==>

[A. Selected by the Father]

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

Thirdly we see t/work of the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity==>

**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.**

Note progression: Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies; Son Saves. Entirety of the Trinity was at work w/express purpose of securing your salvation.

Remember, I said that the entirety of our salvation consists of several parts. Started w/God's choosing us (past). Then in t/present it takes t/HS to draw (Effectual Calling). But t/H.S. has to draw us to something (specifically someone) ==> Brings us to t/Third part - t/Son of God played in dying for us.

**1. I think that the obedience in verse 2 is our belief in**

## Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior

IOW - there are times in t/NT when t/initial belief of sinners in t/Gospel is called “obedience.” In that sense it’s synonymous w/belief.

Sometimes in NT this is called, “The obedience of faith”. IOW - when you believe t/gospel for 1<sup>st</sup> time & are saved, it is for you an act of obedience to t/faith. Very 1<sup>st</sup> act of full-fledged, obedience that any person can render to God - to believe in t/Gospel.

See that in Romans 1:5 (**the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles**)

See that in Romans 16:26 talks about t/gospel being “**made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.**”

Sometimes it’s put in negative terms==>

John 3:36 “**He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**”

Fig. of speech called Hendiadys (2 diff. words used to say same thing - cf. “I love my wife - I deeply cherish her”).

I tend to think that’s t/focus of what is meant here. Just a few vv. later in chapter 1 Peter uses same word ὑπακοή (obedience - note meaning of t/word - “hearing w/obedience,” Cf. “hearing & obeying t/gospel”). There he seems to use it as a synonym for saving faith (vv. 22-23 [=>])

Obedience to JC = belief in Him. That fits the order of things==>

**[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father . . .**

That’s election, or predestination where God chooses us in eternity past. But, remember that guarantees our salvation, but doesn’t complete it. We also need==>

**...the sanctification of the Spirit...**

Work of t/HS in convicting us of our sin, convincing us of t/truth of t/gospel, & drawing us to t/point of saving faith. But even that’s not enough, also has to be ==>

**. . . obedience to Jesus Christ . . .**

Our actual point of belief where we believe in X (He is God // died for us // rose again on our behalf // our only Sav. & Lord). Then, in

t/moment we believe, we are, as it were==>

... [sprinkled] with His blood...

That's t/application of X's death to our lives.

God elects in t/past, HS draws us to X, We believe, t/blood is applied.

Scripture interprets Scripture (analogy of t/faith) & we see t/exact same thing in 2 Thess. 2:13==>

... God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

... God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation (election) through sanctification by the Spirit (HS calling us to believe) and faith in the truth. (our belief in t/truth which is then applied)

So, we have in this passage 3 steps taken by t/3 persons of the Trinity. God t/Father chooses us; God t/Spirit opens our eyes & draws us to God the Son who upon our obedience of faith sprinkles us with His blood.

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The subtitle for this morning's message: **Satisfaction in the Trinity**

## **D. Parenthesis: Satisfaction in the Trinity**

You can see why we should have satisfaction (by that I mean rest, joy, gratification) in the Trinity.

If that's true (and it is) then we should have some sort of an understanding of what it means that our God is a Triune God.

### **1. This doctrine is at the heart of orthodoxy**

To deny it is to place yourself in t/company of heretics // is to consign yourself to a Xless eternity.

### **2. Why is it then that this doctrine is at the top of the most neglected doctrines in Xnty?**

One reason is that the church hasn't done a good job of teaching - teaching in general, much less teaching about t/Trinity.

When I was at the FT. Lauderdale theol. conference someone joked, “Of course we know that most of our people are Arians, modalists.” (I may add Pelagians).

These are all ancient heresies. They are evident when people in CH’s say things like - “Jesus is the Son of God, but not God.” (Arianism). Or, “Everyone is basically born good” (Pelagianism). Or “The trinity is like a man who is a father, a son, and a husband” (modalism).

People in the pew do have a gross misunderstanding of theology because the church has done such a bad job of teaching anything. We’re to equip t/saints so that they don’t fall pray to every wind of false teaching/doctrine. We’re to equip & instead of equipping them we spend all our time and energy entertaining them.

Another reason is because of the confusion that abounds as to what we mean when we say we believe in the Trinity.

Interesting that cultists don’t attack t/true doctrine; they attack a caricature of it. So, when the Watchtower Witnesses come to your door and say, “If you believe in the Trinity then tell me who Jesus was praying to in the Garden of Gethsemane? If he’s God he was praying to himself and that doesn’t make any sense now, does it?” And the unwitting Xn says, “Gee, uh, I don’t know, I guess it doesn’t.”

But t/doctrine t/cultist is describing isn’t t/orthodox doctrine of t/Trinity - it’s a perversion of it.

### *Here’s my point -*

The Trinity is the highest revelation of God that he has made for his people. It is essential to embrace the doctrine of Trinity if we are going to embrace God in who He is. To pervert or misunderstand t/Trinity is to pervert & misunderstand t/very character & nature of God.

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Please pray for me - pray that I can be led by God’s Word and Wisdom

as I study & that God will grace me w/the ability to take what I've studied on this lofty issue and teach it in such a way that is understandable to you.