



God's Elect

Titus 1:1-4

November 7, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this text God gives us insight into the biblical doctrine of election and his glorious work in our lives.

The Text: Titus 1:1-4

¹Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of 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 ³and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; ⁴To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Paul's greeting is driven by the biblical doctrine of election, which we need to examine more closely.

a) The doctrine of election has a solid footing in the Bible.

b) The doctrine of election is helpfully explained in the London Baptist Confession of faith (1689).

(1) "God has decreed in Himself from all eternity ... all things which shall ever come to pass" (3.1).
-Yet God is neither associated with sin nor removes human will or second causes.

(2) God's election is not based on anything "he foresaw in the future or because it would come to pass under certain conditions" (3.2).

(3) By God's decree and for his glory, "some men and angels are predestinated or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace. Others are left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice" (3.3).

(4) God's elect are chosen "solely out of his free grace and love, without anything in the creature as a condition or cause of moving him to choose" and "in accordance with his eternal ... purposes and the secret counsel of good pleasure of his will" (3.5).

(5) God "has foreordained all the means" for the elect (3.6):
-effectually called to faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season,
-justified, adopted, sanctified,
-and kept by His power through faith unto salvation.

(6) "The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care" so that all may "be assured of their eternal election" (3.7).

c) There are several practical implications of the doctrine of election.

- (1) Election explains how God thinks about, acts toward, and is working in us.
- (2) Election reminds us how big God is and how small we are.
- (3) Election magnifies God's glory.
- (4) Election encourages us as we strive to obey God.
- (5) Election helps us as we seek to serve God.
- (6) Election shepherds us to put our hope in God.

Response

May the mysterious doctrine of election humble you and deepen your trust in God.

Small Group Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: What are the Pastoral Letters and what topics do they address?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why might it be significant that the apostle Paul refers to himself as both a “servant” of God and an “apostle” of God (v. 1)?
- 4) What does the description “God’s elect” mean (v. 1)?
- 5) V. 1 ends by explaining that the purpose of “knowledge” is “godliness.” Are Christians more interested in Bible study than Bible living, and if so, what can be done about that?
- 6) How does our “hope of eternal life” (v. 2) give the Christian a firm grounding and proper perspective in their daily struggles?
- 7) What does v. 4 reveal about the close relationship between Paul and Titus?
- 8) Have you had a close relationship with other Christians, maybe as a mentor or mentee, and how is that important for your growth or the growth of others?
- 9) Why does Paul end his introduction with “grace and peace” (v. 4), and how do those two terms helpfully depict the impact of Christianity?
- 10) What are your thoughts on the doctrine of election?

Further study this week: Passages on the doctrine of election: Genesis 18:19 (Mon); Deuteronomy 14:2 (Tues); Romans 9:11-23 (Thurs); Romans 11:25-36 (Fri)