

"Chosen for the Good Life" 1 Peter 1:1-2

What is the "good life"? Everyone has some idea of what it is, and everyone is looking for it. But if we ask the Author of life, He will tell us, quite simply, that the good life is the imitation of Christ. No one has ever lived better than Jesus. No one has experienced more joy and peace and fulfillment, even alongside of rejection and suffering, than Jesus Christ. Imitate Him, and you will find the best that life has to offer.

For centuries millions of immigrants have come to this country looking for a better life, looking for the good life. They believe it can be found in this country. Were they right? Can the good life be found here in this place? More importantly, were they even looking for the right thing? Did they really know what the "good life" is?

What is the "good life"? No one wants a bad life. Everyone has an idea of what that life is in his or her mind.

According to the standard definition that most of us operate by: the good life is a life filled with pleasant circumstances

So what is the "good life"? Ask the author of life. **The imitation of Christ - 1 Peter 2:21**

Who can argue that Christ lived the best life – more peace, joy, satisfaction, fulfillment, even though He suffered and was rejected.

Therefore, imitate Christ.

This is possible because God has chosen you.

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are ***elect exiles of the dispersion*** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

I. What is the meaning of "election"?

- Common term. In many respects, simple concept
- to be picked out of / selected from a larger group

- illustration: games at recess – team captains “chose” individual people out of a larger group to be on their team
- multiple individuals and groups are called “elect” in scripture
 - the nation of Israel
 - the Levitical priests
 - Jeremiah the prophet
 - Cyrus, leader of Persian empire
 - Jesus Christ
 - those chosen by God for salvation – this is the one Peter has in mind

II. Why is election necessary?

- Jesus died for all human beings making salvation possible for all
- God desires everyone to be saved
- Why does He need to elect?
- Ex: Captains want to choose team and whole class runs away
- Left to ourselves, no human will ever choose to believe the gospel.
 - Rom 1:20-23 – choose to worship creation (idols, themselves)

Romans 1:20–23

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man...

- Story of human history: God reaching down with this priceless, beautiful gift of salvation, and all people choosing to turn and run the other direction.
- Peter tells us how it works. 3 qualifying statements

III. How does God elect?

A. Basis: Foreknown by God

- “foreknowledge” – to know something beforehand
- what does God know beforehand? Everything!
 - ◆ Psalm 139:16; Eph. 1:5

Psalm 139:16

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Ephesians 1:5

In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will....

- Why did He choose me?
 - ◆ Not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness
- Why me? NO IDEA!
- Why me and not someone else? NO IDEA!
- Unjust?
 - ◆ Justice would leave us all separated from God
- Why begin with such a difficult subject?
 - ◆ Not difficult for Peter's readers
 - ◆ No Calvinists, no Arminians
 - ◆ Assurance: world has rejected you but God has chosen you

B. Means: Set apart by the Spirit

C. Goal: Cleansed by Christ

- Ex. 24:3-8
- To "obey" = to "believe"; Romans 1:5 ("obedience of faith")
- New Covenant

D. Purpose

- May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.
- "be multiplied"
- Because you have been identified with Jesus Christ; chosen and bound to Him by covenant.

You will no longer fit into this world – 1 Peter 1:1

A. Holy Misfits

- Aliens, strangers. Similar word used later (non-citizens)
- Literal or figurative?
- Citizenship in heaven; Phil
- Heb. 11
- World will sometimes approve; sometimes reject; always we will be different

B. Here for a purpose

- Scattered; *diaspora*
- Literal – Jews living outside of Palestine
 - Exiled because of disobedience
- Figuratively – believers living for Christ
- Not removed from this world
- Engaged
- Longing for home...which is not this world

Application

To the degree we identify with this world, we will find temporary pleasure, but in the end, frustration. This world is not what we are made for.

To the degree we identify with Jesus Christ, even in suffering, we will find the good life.

Join God's chosen people

Band together

- Challenge one another to live differently
- Encourage one another when we don't fit in