

# Make Your ELECTION Certain

2 Peter 1:10-15

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Hebrews 3:1-15



## Lies Believed to Be True

- Lie #6: God loves everybody and invites all to come to Him to be saved.

## A Letter to Saints

### All That God Has Done for His Own (vv. 1-4)

- ★ (v. 1) Precious faith by divine appointment. (Acts 13:48)
- ★ (v. 3) **ALL things that pertain to life and godliness.**
- ★ (v. 3) Called us with an irresistible, irrevocable call.
- ★ (v. 4) Given us **exceedingly great and precious promises.**
- ★ (v. 4) Re-created us into NEW CREATURES with NEW NATURES. (2 Cor 5:17)
- ★ (v. 4) By all things pertaining to life and godliness and exceedingly great and precious promises we have escaped the corruption that **is** in the world.

### “For This Reason . . . ADD to Your Faith” (2 Peter 1:5-9)

### THEREFORE . . . GOD Commands (2 Peter 1:10)

- (2 Peter 1:8-9) – IF these virtues (vv. 5-7) are yours **and** they **abound** you will be FRUITFUL and USEFUL to the Christ, your LORD. IF NOT, you will become short-sighted, even blind, forgetting all of God's mercies!
- Peter, after giving this warning, **exhorts** his readers (remember who they are) beginning with a “therefore” or as he did in verse 5, “for this reason”.
- Peter exhorts using “μᾶλλον (mallon)” which is an adverb and can mean “more” or “rather”. Since it is an adverb it is reasonable to attach it to the verb “diligence”.
- “diligence” is “σπουδάζω spoudazo” the same word he used in verse 5. It means “to exert one’s self”; “make speed”; “be prompt”; “labor”; “. With the adverb we can translate this verb as “make **every** effort”; “be the more diligent”; “make speed”; “be prompt”.
- **GOD IS SAYING THAT THIS IS SOMETHING YOU TAKE VERY, VERY SERIOUS!**

- The verb “to give diligence” is **ACTIVE VOICE** (something we do) and in the **IMPERATIVE MOOD** (something we must do).
- NOT to give all diligence and make every effort to make our calling and election sure (certain) is SIN. It is arrogance! It is assumption! It is rebellion.

## Have You Been CALLED by GOD?

### External and Internal Calls

- The **EXTERNAL CALL** is that call made by ministers of the Word (pastors, evangelists, teachers, parents, friends, etc.) to those who are **UNSAVED**.
  - It is a **GOSPEL CALL**. God ordained that He would use the preaching of His Word to bring people to salvation. (Romans 10:12-17)
  - It is a **GENERAL CALL** to “all creatures” (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8) in obedience to Christ’s commands. (This call goes out to **ELECT** and **NON-ELECT**).
  - It is **NOT** a **UNIVERSAL CALL**. This is evident in the Old Testament in that God did not send His prophets to all Gentile nations.
    - It is evident history in that there are still **BILLIONS** of people who have never heard the **GOSPEL** or even the name **JESUS CHRIST**.
  - It is a call that is **FREQUENTLY** rejected.
    - Consider the parable of the marriage feast in Luke 14:15-24. The word “invited” or “bade” in v. 16 is the verb “to call.” (See Matt. 22:3)
  - It is a call **NOT** made in **VAIN**. If it is rejected then those who have heard it will be **RIGHTEOUSLY** punished with everlasting destruction more severely than those who have never heard this call. (See Proverbs 1:24-28; 1 Peter 4:17; 1 Thess 1:8-9)
  - It is an **URGENT CALL**. See Hebrews 3:7-13; 4:7 - “**TODAY**” (Proverb 27:1)
- The **INTERNAL CALL** is that call made by **GOD** Himself by using the **EXTERNAL CALL** of the ministry of the Word and His Spirit.
  - ★ **ALL** those whom **GOD** chose before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) **HE CALLS!** (Romans 8:29-30)
  - This call is a call **out of darkness, into marvelous and surprising light**. 1 Peter 2:9.
  - This call is a call **out of bondage, into liberty**. Galatians 5:13
    - It is a call out of the bondage of sin (unrighteousness) into the freedom of righteousness. (Romans 6:20; 1 John 2:29; 3:10)
  - This call is a call **out of the fellowship with men of the world, into fellowship (union) with Christ**. (1 Corinthians 1:9)
    - It is a call out of the world and into the kingdom of the King!
  - This call is a call **out of the enmity with God, into a peace with God**. (1 Corinthians 7:15; Romans 5:1; Colossians 3:15)
  - This call is a call **out of unholiness and sinfulness, into a state of holiness and righteousness**. 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15
  - This call is a call **into the GRACE of Christ**. Galatians 1:6

- This call is a call **into SAINTHOOD**. Romans 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 1:2)
- This call is an **IRRESISTIBLE** and **EFFECTUAL** call. It is a call of GRACE which is the POWER of God.
  - Whatever God desires He does and no one can stop Him. (Job 23:13; 9:12; 12:14; Ecclesiastes 3:14; 7:13; Lam 3:37; Psa 115:3)
  - Lazarus in the tomb for four days could not resist the call of Christ. John 11:43.
- This call is a **HOLY** calling. 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thess 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15.
- This call is a **HIGH** calling. Philippians 3:14 – He who calls is the HIGH and LOFTY One who dwells in the high and holy place. Isaiah 57:15.
  - It takes to the throne of God Himself. Ephesians 2:6.
- This call is a **HEAVENLY** calling. Hebrews 3:1. It is a CALL out of the WORLD to a citizenship that is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- This call is a **IRREVERSIBLE, IRREVOCABLE; UNCHANGING** call. Romans 11:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

## Have You Been CHOSEN by GOD?

### Doctrine: ELECTION

- The doctrine of ELECTION is a NECESSARY doctrine for Christians to understand! One cannot “give all diligence in making their election sure” without a biblical understanding of the doctrine!
- Doctrine Biblically Stated: “By the decree of God, the Creator of the entire universe, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined (before time began) to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death.”
- **FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE.**
  - EVERYTHING proceeds from GOD’s ELECTION.
  - EVERYTHING happens as a result of God’s election.
  - ★ **ALL of history comes to be as a result of God’s election.**
  - This doctrine establishes a GOD-CENTERED theology & gospel!
  - This doctrine gives ALL glory, honor, and praise to God (Creator) and NONE to men (creatures).
  - This doctrine is FOUNDATIONAL to the Gospel.
- **BEFORE TIME BEGAN!**
  - We were **chosen** (elected) in Christ before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4)
  - We were **chosen** before the world began. (2 Timothy 1:9)
  - We were **chosen** from the beginning unto salvation. (2 Thess 2:13)
  - We were “**elect according to the foreknowledge of God**”. (1 Peter 1:2)
    - ★ We elected “for obedience” NOT because we obeyed!

## TWO PROMISES (2 Peter 1:10-11)

- ❶ IF you **do** these things (vv. 5-10; pursuit of holy living and holy virtues; diligently making our election and calling sure) you will never stumble. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- ❷ IF you **do** these things, “an entrance will be supplied to you **abundantly** into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

## Peter’s Dying Commitment (2 Peter 1:12-15)

- “For this reason, I will not be negligent to **remind** you **always** of these things, **though** you know and are established in the present truth.”
- As long as I am alive will continue to **stir** you up by **reminding** you. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Peter knew he would “shortly put off this tent” (die), but Peter knew that there was “a building” awaiting him on the other side of death. (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)
  - ★ (vv. 2, 4) Christians **groan** to put off **this** body (tent) and **earnestly desire** to be clothed with their heavenly bodies. (Rom 8:23-25)
  - ★ (v. 5) Peter, as was Paul, was **confident** that God had prepared everything for him. (1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
  - ★ “even as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me” – John 21:18-19)
- “careful” is the same word “diligence” as he used in verse 10.
- “decease” or “departure” - ἔξοδος (exodos) – “leaving one place (earth; wilderness) to go to another (heaven; homeland)”. Peter had no fear of death!

## What Must We Learn & Do

- ❶ We must “make every effort”, “be very diligent” to make our calling and election SURE. We must test ourselves by the Word of God. (2 Peter 1:10)
- ❷ We must “walk (live) worthy of our calling”. (Eph 4:1; 1 Thess 2:12)
- ❸ We must continually “proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light”, who chose us and made us His own special people! (1 Peter 2:9)

## How Do I Know that I Am Called and Chosen?

- ❶ Do I see myself as a gross sinner? Is there a war in me? (Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-17) Do I HATE sin? (Psalm 119:104, 128, 163)
- ❷ Do I know that my only hope is in God’s only provision and that provision is Christ’s perfect life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession. (Romans 5:10-12; 7:25; 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
- ❸ Do I do the Word of God? (Luke 4:4; James 1:22; 1 John 2:3-4; see 5:13)
- ❹ Do I examine myself, confess my sins regularly, and continually repent of my sins? (2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 1:9-10; Acts 17:30; Luke 13:1-5)
- ❺ Am I serving the “Body of Christ” in a local church? (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-27)
- ❻ Am I living for God and not myself? (Romans 6:13, 22; 10:9-10; 1 Peter 4:1-4; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Matthew 7:21)
- ❼ Am I pursuing holiness? (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7)