

## **Who Are God's True People!**

### **1 Peter 1:1-2**

Intro: Who are the true people of God in this world? For an answer let's turn to 1 Peter 1. Peter as an apostle of Christ surely knows who God's people are. In this text he identifies who they are as he gives us five identifying features of God's people. God's true people are those who are:

#### **Selected by the Father**

*The KJV says "elect"; the NASV "chosen".*

God has the sovereign right as creator to choose who His people are! He made this choice prior to the creation. Thus, "according to the foreknowledge of God".

God's people are those whom He chose to be His people!

*In what sense are God's people "elected" or "chosen" by Him?*

God chose that those who believed in and accepted His Son would be His people! I.e. He chose the grounds or conditions of their adoption into His family.

*In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. (Romans 11:5)*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. (Ephesians 1:3-4)*

If indeed, he foreknew who they were individually, this foreknowledge did not remove the free moral agency of man in accepting the gospel as Calvinism claims.

*However Peter points out that man's salvation was not initiated by himself but was the response of man to God's provision through the Spirit.*

#### **Sanctified by the Spirit**

*Peter is referring here to the means by which God's sovereign choice is made real in this world. He sent the Holy Spirit to call unto Himself those whom He had chosen to be His people.*

*How did this happen? Peter later explains to us clearly:*

*It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. (1 Peter 1:12)*

The Holy Spirit came upon the messengers of God endowing them with the message of God for a world lost in sin.

The messengers proclaimed the "good news" of a way of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Consequently, those who receive the "good news" are "sanctified by the Spirit".

*It's hard to find a really good English synonym to translate the word Peter uses. The most common translation is "sanctified" since it conveys to our minds the idea of separation to God or holiness. In fact, the kindred words are commonly translated "holy" or "saint". A good word might be "consecrated".*

*The idea is that God acquired for himself a consecrated people by His Spirit. The proclamation of the gospel brings about a great division among men and separates out those who would be God's people, a people who would be obedient to Jesus.*

### **Submissive to Jesus Christ**

*The objective of the Holy Spirit's work is to find those people who will "obey Jesus Christ". Every time the gospel is preached the thoughts and hearts of men are judged by the preaching of the word. The gospel sorts out those who would obey God.*

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

*And note that it is those who obey Jesus who are God's people. What we obey is what Jesus himself taught for salvation and entrance into the kingdom.*

*and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)*

*And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)*

### **Sprinkled by the blood of Jesus**

*Note the connection "and". Those chosen and sanctified are "obedient and sprinkled". The two may even be seen in term of cause and effect. Those who "obey Jesus" are consequently "sprinkled" with the blood of Jesus. Again Peter explains himself:*

*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (1 Peter 1:22)*

*"Sprinkled" does not refer to a "mode" of baptism; but instead derives its meaning from the imagery of the OT. Under the Law people were "cleansed by the sprinkling of blood".*

*For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. And according to the Law, one may*

*almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:19-22)*

***Under the new covenant people are cleansed by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus. Notice it is not water that is sprinkled but blood that is sprinkled. let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22)***

***Through obedience to the gospel we are sprinkled by the blood of Jesus in order that we are cleansed from sin. Through this cleansing we come into the kingdom of heaven. That changes our relationship to this world.***

### **Sojourners in this world**

*To those who reside as aliens.*

*The people to whom Peter writes are identified by their earthly location.*

*They lived in the Roman provinces.*

*But more important is what they were spiritually. They were “aliens” there. This was not their true home.*

*This word establishes a context of almost all of Peter’s words in this epistle. As God’s people, we are not at home here in this world, a point Peter would stress several times in this letter.*

***God’s true people have a sense of alienation in this world. We live by a different law. We are citizens of a higher government. We are on a journey to a heavenly country like the patriarchs.***

*All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (Hebrews 11:13)*

**Conclusion: Who are God’s true people? Here is the answer. Here is how you may know if you are truly one of the people of God. Would this be a description of your life and experience?**