

1 Peter 1:1-2

Believer Cheer Up: You are One of God's Spiritual Draft Picks!

Purpose Statement of the Book of 1 Peter (2:11-12)

As spiritual aliens/short-timers on Earth, Christians should not be controlled by our emotions/feelings but we should consistently live our faith centered on our Lord Jesus Christ so that unbelievers who slander us because we are believers will see the reality of Christ in our lives and ultimately glorify God by coming to Him in faith.

Peter-an Apostle of Jesus Christ [writing] to those (believers) who reside as aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

who are chosen

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit
to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

These believers living their faith under fire were being rejected by their persecutors but they (and we) are among God's "chosen according to the foreknowledge of God"

The Doctrine of Election-God's Pre-Temporal Choice of Those He Would Save

This is an area of truth that is BIGGER than the human mind in the same way as several other intricate and important teachings of Scripture:

Is God ONE or is God THREE? (The Trinity)

BOTH are True...as Smaller Parts of a Larger Reality
There is ONE God Who Exists in THREE distinct/co-equal Persons
"in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"

Is the Incarnate Christ GOD or is He MAN (The Hypostatic Union)

BOTH are True as...Smaller Parts of a Larger Reality
The Incarnate Christ is ONE Person with TWO natures: the God-man
"in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form"

Is the Bible the Word of GOD or the Word of MAN? (The Inspiration of Scripture)

BOTH are True...as Smaller Parts of a Larger Reality

DUAL Authorship of Scripture: The Word of GOD and the Word of MAN

In Matthew 22:43, Jesus asked: "...how does David in the Spirit call Him (the Messiah) Lord" in Psalm 110....affirming the dual (David and the Spirit) authorship of Scripture

Is God SOVEREIGN or are Human Beings RESPONSIBLE? (Soteriology)

I'm Convinced (with Chafer, Swindoll, Walvoord, Lightner, Hoehner) Both ATASPOALR
God is Sovereign in Salvation and Yet Humans are Responsible to Believe/Accountable
for Their Responses to God's Grace/the Gospel

The Bible talks about the Elect but Never the Non-Elect...the Elect (D-Sovereignty) and Those Who Do Not Believe (Human Responsibility): Acts 13:46-48 Paul and Barnabas...
said it was necessary the word of God be spoken to you first but **since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life**, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles
...and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed**. This is consistent with
God's non-symmetrical relationship with good/evil in His creation. God is the ultimate
cause for everything, but not the morally responsible cause of evil/sin

IMPORTANT for TBFers to Remember

Great Christians (in/out of TBF) who love the Lord as much as you do have a different
view than you about this issue! TBF has always welcomed believers of goodwill
regardless of their views on the "under the hood" details of the Doctrine of Election.

Some of Us are Calvinists:

See God's Sovereignty as the Key

God Chose the Elect Unconditionally...and He Causes Them to Believe

Some of Us are Arminians:

See Human Responsibility as the Key

God Chose Those He Knew Would Freely Believe

Some of Us (Well at Least Two of Us) are Amyraldians ("Cal-minians?")

See Both God's Sov and H-Responsibility in Biblical Balance

God's Choice Was Not Based on Passive Awareness Beforehand

But His Choice Was/Is Consistent with Those Who Would Believe

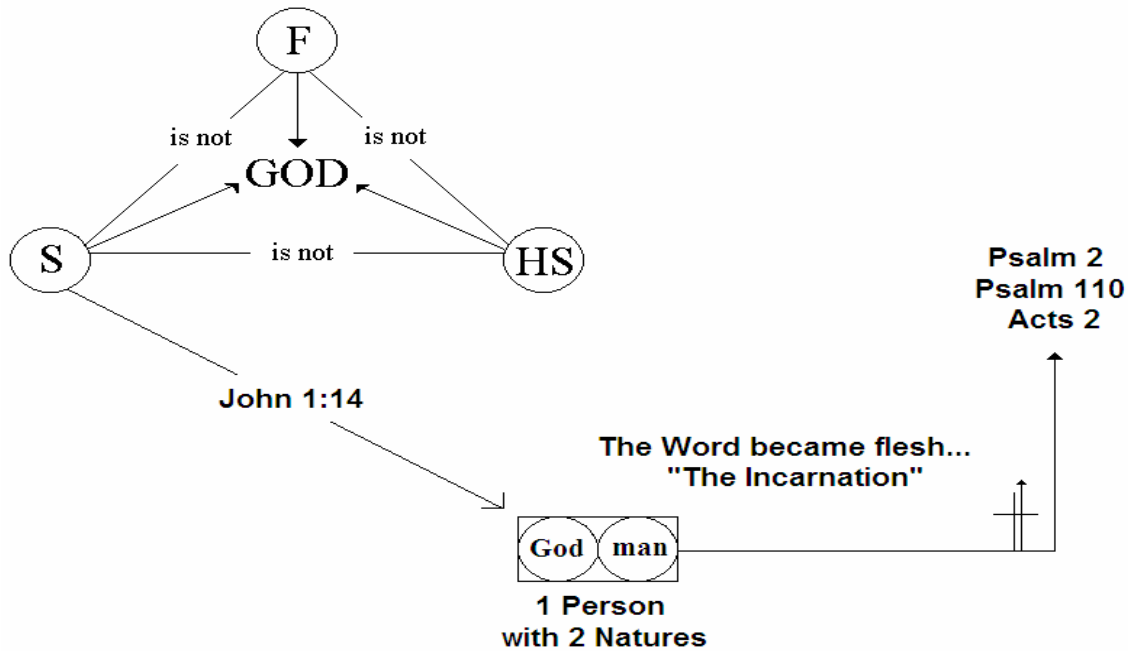
**Notice All Three Persons of the Trinity are Involved in/Initiate Human Salvation
Salvation is of the LORD**

God the Father
The Author/Architect of the Plan of Salvation
God the Son
The Active Agent of the Plan of Salvation
God the Holy Spirit
The Initiator of the Plan of Salvation

1: according to the foreknowledge (foreordination)
of God the Father

2: by the sanctifying work (common grace...efficacious grace)
of the (God the Holy) Spirit

3: to obey (see also Acts 6:7 to obey the call of the Gospel to believe in...)
...(God the Son) Jesus Christ (SAS/LBSR) and be sprinkled with His blood



Take This To Heart

Rejection is one of the most painful experiences one can endure. I'm sure at some level all of us have felt its sting. The original readers of 1 Peter had been rejected by the "powers that be" and forced to relocate as refugees/aliens BUT God had not rejected them in fact all of them and all of us are among God's Draft Picks...called to score points for His team as we await PCS to Heaven.