

SESSION 1 -- PART I -- ELECTION & CALLING

PART I -- ELECTION & CALLING (Introduction and definitions)

Session I -- Election & Calling in New Testament

- Apostolic Teaching on Election and Calling -- John, Peter & Paul
- What Jesus taught about Election & Calling -- summary from the Gospel of John.

Apostolic Teaching on Election and Calling -- Apostles John, Peter & Paul

Let us open with a word of Prayer and then read John 15:16

You did not **choose** me, **but I chose you** and **appointed you that you should go and bear fruit** and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. John 15:16

Good morning Church.

We are starting a series on the Doctrines of Election and Calling -- we will combine them as we go because trying to split them individually will need more than 6 weeks -- but if we combine them, we at least have a fighting chance to cover them fairly well enough.

I will avoid defining the terms from the onset --so that we try as much as possible to let the texts we will look at to speak for themselves... then as we conclude our session, we will try and have a working definition of Election and Calling.

Let me begin by giving a caution -- this is not just a mental exercise of technically explaining a doctrine. We come humbly before God to be taught. It's not about arguing and having the best set of answers for tough doctrines. This touches deep into the souls of people -- people have loved ones who rejected the gospel, people have struggled and some are still struggling with these truths even now. So let us be patient and long suffering with one another -- and be sensitive with any comments or questions regarding these doctrines. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will give us the grace to accept & submit to God's Word as it is revealed in the Scriptures.

In our 1st and second session -- I just want to strive to show you that Election and Calling are not man-made --- these are not Doctrines that certain men or denominations have pulled out of their imaginations! These doctrines are straight from the Bible!

Because these doctrines are very strong and controversial -- my main aim is to let the Bible speak clearly in today and next week's sessions (Sessions 1 & 2) to show that these are teachings straight from God Himself -- because from Session 3, it will get very controversial and we want to be clear that it's a Biblical teaching that God Himself emphatically puts forward throughout the Scriptures.

Today we will start in the New Testament and then go backwards into the Old Testament in our next session. We will start with 3 pre-eminent Apostles then finish of this session with Jesus Himself.

So really what I am doing is going backwards -- starting from Revelation (in the future) and doing time travel backwards all the way before Genesis and into the very throne room of Heaven (Session V and VI) before God even created anything! So please strap yourself in like modern day Bereans because this is going to be a bumpy and turbulent flight through space and time and through the fallen and self-centred emotions and desires of men-- and straight into the very throne room of God in eternity past!

Apostle John

The Last Apostle of Jesus to die was John and He wrote for us the very last book in our Bibles - - Revelation.

So we will start with John, then Peter then Paul -- remember our main agenda today is to just see from Scripture that Election and Calling are from the Bible then we will DEFINE the terms as we bring this session to a close. By seeing the texts that talk about Election and Calling -- we will be able to define these terms Biblically.

"And whoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15)

This is what John writes in Revelation 19:9

⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited** to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "**These are the true words of God.**"

Revelation 19:9

So in this section, John has just been shown a glimpse of the marriage feast of the Lamb -- and now the Angel says -- you know who is the most fortunate and happiest of all creatures? -- whoever makes it to this party! There is a guest list -- and oh how blessed are those that make it to the list! Obviously it goes without saying that if there is a list -- even at a party or event -- then it's an invite only right? It is not a free-for all! And then the Angel goes ahead to reinforce this invitation by saying -- **These are the true words of God.** It's not enough to say -- Blessed are the invited -- The Angel must emphasize --

these are the true Words of God! HE doesn't want you to miss the point! The Angel is saying -- God has made a big deal about this party and who is invited -- God Himself has said it!

Move backwards from Revelation 19 to Revelation 13....

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.** ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints**. **Revelation 13:5-10**

Do you see that? Everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world.... Now we are going back -- even before Genesis... so keep that in mind -- because we will come back to this thought in our future sessions... things are being fore-ordained even before creation -- peoples names have already been written before creation even happens! I will leave that thought there for now....

Okay, I have thrown in Jude coz it's a short book -- just 25 verses -- and Jude remember was the half-brother of Jesus -- this is what he says....

Jude writes this:

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. **Jude 1:1-2**

Okay, so Jude says -- that there are those who are called -- logically this means then that there are those who do not get called -- right?

Okay, let's keep going -- we are still going backwards in our Bibles so let's skip 3rd John and go to 2nd John:

2 John 1 says this:

¹ The elder to the **elect lady** and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: **2 John**

In this case -- the Elder is the Apostle John -- who was the last Apostle to pastor the Ephesian Church -- remember this was a Church planted by Paul, pastored by Timothy and then by John at the close of the 1st century-- so it's the one church we know most about -- infact Church tradition says that John lived there with Mary the mother of Jesus -- she lived 11 years after Jesus' crucifixion -- The Ephesian Church was well grounded and established -- imagine being planted by Paul, Pastored by Timothy and then grounded by Elder John!

Notice that John calls the Church -- the Elect Lady -- of course the Church is always designated as feminine gender because Christ is her Husband or Bridegroom. The Children just means the individual members of the Church. Lady depicts the Church as a whole.

Let's wrap up with John for now by looking briefly at 1 John:

1 John 4:5,6

Little children, **you are from God** and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ **They are from the world;** therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ **We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us;** whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1 John 4:4-6

Notice how John makes a distinction -- 'You are from God' and 'They are from the world' -- that is a clear discrimination of 2 different groups of people -- there are those who are people who are from God --- and there are those who are not of God but of the world --- this should help us when we get to Genesis and see the Bloodlines of Cain vs Seth.... and even Israel as a Nation vs the rest of the pagan World...

And lastly --

1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, **that we should be called children of God;** and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that **it did not know him.** 1 John 3:1

So the Father -- has given some people a special kind of love so that those who receive that special kind of love -- can be called Children of God. This is discriminating love -- it bestows something special on a certain group of people which results them to becoming adopted sons and daughters of God - John 1:12 -- "To those who believed in Him **He gave the right to become children of God."**

This is in contradistinction to the other group -- who do not know God! And of course we understand that that word '**know**' is -- talking about an intimate relationship like -- Adam knowing Eve in Genesis 4:1 -- which is of course a euphemism for having sexual relations.

As the apostle declares, "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God: he who knows God hears us; he who is not of God hears not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:5, 6). We know of nothing so Divisive between the sheep and the goats as a faithful exposition of this doctrine. If a servant of God accepts some new charge, and he wishes to ascertain which of his people desire the pure milk of the Word, and which prefer the Devil's substitutes, let him deliver a series of sermons on this subject, and it will quickly be the means of "taking forth the precious from the vile" (Jeremiah 15:19). **A.W Pink**

Now let's move to Peter -- don't worry we will come back to Apostle John when we see what Jesus has to say about Election and Calling -- John is the best Gospel to see these truths from Jesus' own lips.

APOSTLE PETER -- The One Jesus Chose as Leader

With Peter -- the language becomes more plain and graphic and explicit -- Called, Chosen, Elected -- the concepts become clearer...

. 2 Peter 1:3-9

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him **who called us** to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because **of** sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks

these qualities is so near-sighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **2 Peter 1:3-9**

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your **calling and election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. -- **2 Peter 1:10**

Apostle Peter is writing to all Saints --- urging them to confirm the fact that God has truly saved them through the salvific work of Jesus Christ. Because one of the saddest realities is to live a deluded -- or self-deceived life and then hear those dreadful words of Jesus from Matthew 7:21-- 23 "Depart from Me, I never knew you!"

Peter here gets quite clear with the terms -- doesn't he -- we have the exact words we are using -- **Election & Calling...**

So if God has Called and Elected some -- how do we confirm it? It's by how we live... we show that we are truly chosen and truly called to live in the Light of Christ -- by living distinct lives.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for his own possession**, that you may **proclaim** the excellencies of him who **called you out** of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **1 Peter 2:9-10**

1 Peter 1:1-2

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who are **elect exiles** of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² **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. **1 Peter 1:1-2**

Again, you see Peter is quite clear with his terms and language -- people are chosen, people are God's own possession -- for a purpose -- to proclaim God's excellencies... people are called Elect Exiles --- and they are chosen according to the foreknowledge -- which just means prior knowledge --knowledge in eternity past....

Alright -- let's kick it up another gear by looking at the greatest Church planter, Evangelist and Defender of the Faith we have in the Bible - Apostle Paul. If there is any remaining doubt that God has set His affection on some people -- that God distinguishes among people -- and pours special favour and grace on some and not others -- Paul will definitely blow those right out the window!

PAUL -- Apostle of Grace

Titus 1:1-3

Paul, 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,**² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, **promised before the ages began**³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; **Titus 1:1-3**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.⁴ For we know, **brothers loved by God,** that **he has chosen you,**⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-5**

PAUL'S OWN ELECTION AND CALLING

Let's look at Paul's own life -- did he experience this Election and Calling? Does the Bible tell us anything about it?

Yes, Luke does in Acts 9....

ACTS 9:

The Conversion of Saul

¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay

his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a **chosen** instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ **For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.**”* ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. Acts 9:1-19

So Paul not only taught and expounded on this Election and Calling Doctrines -- He Himself experienced them 1st hand -- and it was not his own will or choosing-- it happened to Him when he wasn't looking for it!

Listen to Paul's own words:**1 Timothy 1:12-16**

Christ Jesus Came to Save Sinners

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ **though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,** ¹⁴ **and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.** ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. **1 Timothy 1:12-16**

Acts 26:12

Paul Tells of His Conversion

¹² *“In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, **for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,** ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan*

to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Acts 26:12-18

Here is the only recorded speech of Jesus to Paul -- in Acts 9 we do not get all the details of what Jesus told Paul -- but here in Acts 26 -- we see explicitly what our Lord told Paul -- 'I have appeared to you for this purpose...to appoint you as a servant and witness....' This is Paul's Calling -- explicitly from the mouth of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Okay, we have to land the plane for this Session -- we are not done with Paul yet -- We have a lot to dig into from the Book of Romans and from Ephesians 1 -- which we will do in another sessions.

For now let us wrap it up with our Lord Jesus Christ.

****Did Jesus ever preach and Teach Election? ****

Let's go to the Gospel of John as we wrap up and see what Jesus had to say about these 2 doctrines.... we will expound more on this in a future session. We will just look at it here in brief...

JESUS

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. John 15:16

****The context of the above verse is Jesus our Lord -- talking to His disciples the night before His crucifixion. The verse is plain and straightforward. Jesus chose His disciples -- they didn't choose Him. Even though in John chapter 2 Andrew and John leave John the Baptist and follow Jesus -- Jesus still says, I chose you! ****

This shows that their becoming disciples of Jesus - was not ultimately their decision -- they are following Jesus - yes - but they are not the initiating cause or even the actual cause of them being followers of Jesus -- He determined that and even further -- He already decided what they will do after becoming His disciples --- that they will go -- wherever they are sent -- and bear fruit... be successful in gospel ministry...

Let's briefly look at John 6:60 to 71 and see the ultimate cause of a believers calling....

So the context here is that Jesus has been preaching and teaching that -- unless you eat of his flesh and drink of his blood -- you have no part in Him.. and people are having varied reactions...let's pick up the conversation at the very end... verses 60 to 71....

The Words of Eternal Life

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?" ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

John 6:60-71

In verse 65 -- Jesus says something intriguing -- 'No one can come..' that means there is no human being alive who can accomplish the coming to Jesus -- UNLESS -- that's the key word -- it is granted him by the Father. Your coming to God -- my coming to God -- is conditional to God granting --- that means if God does not grant it -- you can't come!

**In verse 70 -- we see another intriguing statement -- It is still a long way before Judas betrays Jesus -- and yet Jesus already knows what is going to happen -- He is already acquainted with the path that Judas will take....This is what Theologians call Predestination -- Your destination has already been determined. **

Let me close by reading a definition from A.W Pink

DEFINITIONS AND CONCLUSION

"Accurately speaking, election is a branch of predestination, the latter being a more comprehensive term than the former. Predestination relates to all creatures, things, and events; but election is restricted to rational beings—angels and humans. **As the word predestine signifies, God from all eternity sovereignly ordained and immutably determined the history and destiny of each and all of His creatures.** But in this study we shall confine ourselves to predestination as it relates to or concerns rational creatures. And here too a further distinction must be noticed. There cannot be an election without a rejection, a taking without a passing by, a choice without a refusal. As Psalm 78 expresses it, "He refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim; but chose the tribe of Judah"

(verses 67, 68). Thus predestination includes both reprobation (the preterition or passing by of the non-elect, and then the foreordaining of them to condemnation—Jude 4—because of their sins) and election unto eternal life...." **A.W. Pink**

IT FULLY AND FINALLY BOILS DOWN TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The doctrine of election means, then, that God singled out certain ones in His mind both from among angels (1 Timothy 5:21) and from among men, and ordained them unto eternal life and blessedness; that before He created them, He decided their destiny, just as a builder draws his plans and determines every part of the building before any of the materials are assembled for the carrying out of his design. Election may thus be defined: it is that part of the counsel of God whereby He did from all eternity purpose in Himself to display His grace upon certain of His creatures. This was made effectual by a definite decree concerning them. Now in every decree of God three things must be considered: the beginning, the matter or substance, the end or design. Let us offer a few remarks upon each. The beginning of the decree is the will of God. It originates solely in His own sovereign determination. **While determining the estate of His creatures God's own will is the alone and absolute cause thereof. As there is nothing above God to rule Him, so there is nothing outside of Himself which can be in any wise an impulsive cause unto Him; to say otherwise is to make the will of God no will at all. Herein He is infinitely exalted above us, for not only are we subject to One above us, but our wills are being constantly moved and disposed by external causes. The will of God could have no cause outside of itself, or otherwise there would be something prior to itself (for a cause ever precedes the effect) and something more excellent (for the cause is ever superior to the effect), and thus God would not be the independent Being which He is.**

THE END DESIGN IS GLORY!

The end or design of every divine decree is God's own glory, for nothing less than this could be worthy of Himself. As God swears by Himself because He can swear by none greater, so because a greater and grander end cannot be proposed than His own glory, God has set up that as the supreme end of all His decrees and works. "The Lord has made all things for himself" (Proverbs 16:4)—for His own glory. As all things are from Him as the first cause, so all things are to Him (Romans 11:36) as the final end. The good of His creatures is but the secondary end; His own glory is the supreme end, and everything else is subordinate thereto. In the case of the elect it is God's amazing grace which will be magnified; in the case of the reprobate His pure justice will be glorified.

⁴ The LORD has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble. Proverbs 16:4

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:36

Let me leave you with an anticipator for next week -- when we go into the Old Testament to see if these Doctrines of Election and Calling are there as well.

Think about God's Covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15. Abram is a Pagan who worships the Moon God and he is a Chaldean from UR -- he if from Babylon -- and then he gets called in Genesis 12 and he leaves Babylon (very symbolic) and journeys to Canaan and God makes a Covenant with him in Genesis 15 -- God promises Land, Seed and Blessing --- His descendants will inherit Canaan -- the Land -- He will have offspring who will become a great nation -- Israel --- and through him and his descendants -- God will bless 'the whole world' -- meaning through Jesus who is a Jew from Israel -- Salvation and eternal life will come from Him to those chosen by God from out of the entire world.

If that is the flow of the Covenant promises of God --- who is greater -- Abraham or the Israelites who come from Abraham?

So the Israelites are getting the blessings from God because of their connection with Abraham right? That's exactly the case for us -- we receive God's mercy and grace and blessings because of our connection with Jesus -- not in or out of ourselves!

Just like Abraham's call is the primal cause of Israel's Election--- that is -- Israel is chosen in Abraham - - so we are chosen in Christ -- we are not the primary reason or cause that God elected us -- it is absolutely outside of us -- it is all because of God's electing and choosing His Son. It was never and has never been about us -- but us in Christ. It is because we are in Christ that we are even chosen in the 1st place!

Just like there is no Israel without Abraham's Election -- there is no Church without our Election in Christ.

We are what we are -- Elected and Called - only because of our connection with Jesus -- that's why Paul stresses that we are 'in Jesus' throughout his Epistles....

Jesus Himself in John 15 explains to us what our calling is:

I Am the True Vine

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just

as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **John 15:1-11**

If you are **'in Christ Jesus'** this morning -- you are Elected and Called by God --only because you stand before Him **in Christ -- and it is all pre-designed --** for the glory of His Name Forever!

AMEN.