

“Make Your Calling And Election Sure”

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2 Peter 1:10

The promises of God for those He has called are great and precious.

- 2 Pet. 1:4, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
- 2 Pet. 3:13, “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

It is our duty to make our calling and election sure. 2 Pet. 1:10, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

It is implied is that one’s calling and election is conditional; that those who have been called need to make their election sure.

Are you making your calling and election sure? A good place to start is with...

Your initial call and election.

God calls through the gospel.

2 Thess. 2:14, “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The gospel of Christ concerning His death, burial and resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:1-4, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

This gospel contains commands that must be obeyed.

- 2 Thess. 1:8, “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 1 Pet. 4:17, *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*

The command to believe in Jesus.

John 8:24, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*

The command to repent of sins.

Acts 17:30-31, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”*

The command to confess Jesus as Lord.

Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

The command to be baptized.

- Matt. 28:19, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*
- Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*
- Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*
- Acts 22:16, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

Have you responded to the gospel with the obedience of faith?

- Rom. 1:5, *“By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”*
- Heb. 5:9, *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”*

Making sure your response to the call.

By obeying all the commands of the gospel.

- Not just the command to believe, but also the command to repent.
- Not just the command to confess, but also the command to be baptized.

By obeying the commands in a Biblical manner; have you been:

- Baptized in the proper mode (immersion, not pouring or sprinkling)?
- Baptized for the right purpose (for the remission of sins, not as a public profession)?
- Baptized as a suitable subject (a penitent believer, not as an infant incapable of faith)?

If your response was different in any way, what should you do?

Those baptized improperly were re-baptized.

Acts 19:1-5, *“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

If your baptism was in any way different, you should be concerned. Eph. 4:5, *“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”*

A Biblical baptism (mode, purpose, subject) can remove all doubt.

Make your calling and election sure with a Biblical response to the gospel!

But you should not stop with reflection on your initial call and election, for Peter’s admonition in our text (2 Pet. 1:10) was given to Christians. You should also consider...

Your ultimate call and election.

Many are called, but few chosen.

Jesus taught this truth in several parables.

The Tares. Matt. 13:41-43, *“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*

The Wedding Feast. Matt. 22:1-14, *“And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

The Talents. Matt. 25:24-30, *“Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall*

have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Vine And The Branches. John 15:1-2, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”*

Note the calling and election of the nation of Israel. Israel as a whole was called to be God’s people.

Deut. 7:6, *“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”*

But their calling was conditional.

Exo. 19:5-6, *“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”*

And many individuals failed to live up to their calling.

- Heb. 3:7-11, *“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”*
- Heb. 3:16-19, *“For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”*

Similar is the calling and election of the church of Christ.

The church as a whole are called to be God’s people. 1 Pet. 2:9-10, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath*

called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

Yet our calling and election as individuals is conditional.

- Rom. 11:22, *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”*
- Rev. 2:4-5, *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”*
- Rev. 2:10, *“... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

We can become hardened by sin and fall away.

Heb. 3:12-15, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”

We have been called, but will we be chosen at the last day? Matt. 25:34, *“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*

Making sure your election by God.

By being fruitful in the knowledge of Christ.

2 Pet. 1:5-11, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you

abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Adding to our faith such things as virtue, knowledge, self-control, abounding in perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love.

By growing in grace and knowledge.

2 Pet. 3:17-18, “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Be aware of the danger of apostasy (falling away); stand fast in the grace of Christ.

By learning from the parables of Jesus.

- Not doing those things that offend, or practice lawlessness (Tares).
- Adorning ourselves with garments of righteousness (Wedding Feast).
- Utilizing what talents (abilities, opportunities) Christ has given us (Talents).
- Bearing fruit in our service to the Lord (Vine and Branches).

Will your entrance into the kingdom be abundantly supplied?

2 Pet. 1:11, “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion.

It never hurts to ask oneself: “Have I truly responded to the gospel of Christ?”

- Was I scripturally baptized into Christ for the remission of my sins?
- Was my baptism like those depicted in the examples of conversion in the Scriptures?
- Might I need to be re-baptized like those in Ephesus?

It never hurts to ask oneself: “Am I growing in grace?”

- Am I abounding in the knowledge of Christ?
- Am I utilizing what talents Christ has given me?
- Am I bearing fruit for Christ?

With such questions, one seeks only to “Make Your Calling And Election Sure”. Paul expressed it this way: 2 Cor. 13:5, “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*”

