

# Wanted by God!

1 Peter 1:2; Exodus 24:3-8

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- The humiliation of not being picked and the joy of being chosen
- As “pilgrims and sojourners”...
  - Philippians 3:20-- “Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- We do not “fit in”, but are different from the world
- We are disliked, even hated by them
  - John 15:18-- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you!”
  - John 15:20-- “Remember the words I said to you, ‘A Servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my words, they will keep yours also.”
  - John 15:21 -- “For all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.”
  - John 15:22-- “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”
- We might not wanted by the world, but we are...

## Wanted by God!

- 1 Peter 1:2-- “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”

### A. God’s PICK: The “Elect”

1. **Many avoid the doctrine of “election” because it is too complicated, confusing, or controversial.**
  - Isaiah 55:8-9-- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
2. **But Scripture is full of evidence that: God makes choices. He picks.**
  - a. **God picked Abraham, then Isaac, Jacob, and finally Israel to be his “Chosen” people.**
    - Genesis 12:1-3-- “Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curses you; And in you all families of the earth shall be blessed.”
    - Genesis 17:19 -- “I will establish My covenant with him (that is, Isaac) for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”
    - Romans 9: 10-13-- “when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of him who calls), it was said to her, ‘The older shall serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.’”
    - Deuteronomy 7:6-- “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”
  - b. **God’s picks are given to Jesus**
    - John 6:44-- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- John 6:37-- *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."*
- c. **Jesus chooses us**
- 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 remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."*
  - John 15:19-- *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*
- d. **As Jesus' Chosen Ones, we make up the church—**
- Ephesians 1:3-6-- *"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 without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."*
  - 1 Peter 2:9-10-- *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*

## **B. The Father's PLAN: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God"**

1. **"Foreknowledge" is not foresight, that is, God did not choose based on knowing what man might do. That is not a "real" choice. For it...**
  - a. **Makes man, not God, sovereign in salvation**
  - b. **Gives man undue credit for his salvation**
    - Ephesians 2:8-9-- *"By grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
  - c. **Assumes that fallen man can seek after God**
    - Romans 3:11-- *"There is none who understands, there is none who seeks after God."*
    - Romans 5:8-- *"But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
    - 1 John 4:10-- *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*
  - d. **Jesus Christ is "foreordained" to be the savior**
    - 1 Peter 1:19-20-- *"redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifested in these last times for you."*
    - Acts 2:23-- *"Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and have put to death."*
  - e. **God is absolutely sovereign over all**
    - Isaiah 46:9-10-- *"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"*
    - Isaiah 14:24-- *"The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, 'Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.'"*
2. **"Foreknowledge" is God predetermining in eternity past to choose some based on His Eternal Plan.**
3. **His pick based solely on love for us.**

- Deuteronomy 7:7-8-- *"The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your father, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt."*
- Ephesians 1:5-6-- *"In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved."*

### **C. The Spirit's PROCESS: "Elect...in sanctification of the Spirit"**

- 1 Peter 1:2a-- *"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ"*
1. **Sanctification includes all that the Spirit does to bring us to saving faith in Christ!**
    - a. **Conviction of sin**
      - John 16:7-- *"When He (that is, the Spirit of God) comes, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment to come."*
    - b. **Opening our blinded eyes to truth**
      - 1 Corinthians 2:14-- *"For the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*
    - c. **Repentance and faith, new birth**
      - Titus 3:5-- *"not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, though the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Spirit."*
  2. **Sanctification involves the life-long process of inner transformation**
    - Romans 8:16-- *"bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*
    - Ephesians 4:22-24-- *"put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*
    - 2 Corinthians 5:17-- *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."*
  3. **Sanctification also includes being "sealed", guaranteeing the completion of salvation**
    - Ephesians 1:13-14-- *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*
    - Romans 8:29-30-- *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."*

### **E. The Son's PRODUCT: "Elect...for obedience and sprinkling of blood"**

- 1 Peter 1:2a-- *"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."*
1. **Under the "old" covenant : the sprinkling of blood was a pledge of obedience**
    - Exodus 24:3-8-- *"So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half*

*the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."*

2. **Under the "new" covenant: a pledge of obedience sealed with Christ's blood.**

3. **We are called to be fully devoted, obedient followers of Jesus Christ!**

- Ephesians 2:8-9-- *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
- Ephesians 2:10-- *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*
- 1 John 2:3-5-- *"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly, the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."*