

Date : 27th September 2026
Theme : Making our Election sure.
Topic : Understanding our Election and Salvation.
Passage : 2 Peter 1, 2
Key Verse : ... *Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to be sure of your calling and election. For by doing thus an entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be richly provided for you...2 Peter 1:10,11 NET*

Introduction

Maurice Rollings, the late cardiologist who once dismissed religion as “hocus pocus” but turned Christian, once said: *If you are not sure where you are going, it is not safe to die.*

Whilst one may use a password to enter a treasure cave, entrance into heaven has no memorised religious text. Getting into heaven is purely through faith in Jesus Christ (the Lamb of God) and His sacrifice on the cross. These who receive His death will have their names in the Lamb’s Book of Life; a Book which belongs to Jesus alone.

Our key verse says that, as believers, we are to actively prove and secure the reality of our salvation through a changed life, living out faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control; perseverance, godliness and brotherly kindness.

We are either confident of our salvation or we are stumbling and blind, having forgotten that we have been cleansed from our sins.

1. Understanding our salvation, election and being chosen.

Election

a) What is divine election?

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father... draws him (to Me).

From God’s perspective we are elected or drawn by God’s initiative. It is how grace works. He decides whom He wants to show mercy to.

It is God’s choice (Derek Prince: *Destiny of Israel and the Church*) that determines our destiny. We will readily agree if we are the ones chosen *1 Peter 2:4*.

But does this mean that those who are not chosen are doomed forever?

b) Examples of divine election:

i) Jacob and Esau

- God clearly chose Jacob and not Esau, for His redemption plan.
- To whom God shows mercy and compassion is determined by God’s sovereignty. *Romans 9:15*

ii) Judgement of Pharaoh ... *I have raised you up for this very purpose Exodus 9:16,17.*

- Mercy and grace cannot be earned, we cannot work for it, but conditions apply. In Pharaoh’s case, the Pharaoh’s role was pre-determined by God.

iii) Examples of God’s dealing with Israel

... even so then, at this present time, there is a remnant according to the election of grace Romans 11:5

- All Israel (ie the remnant) will be saved. *Romans 11:26*
- Condition: the remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. *Zephaniah 3:12-13*

c) What do we know about God's choice of us?

i) God has chosen us. *John 15:16.*

...Who (God) has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began... 2 Timothy 1:9 nkjv.

ii) He does so because of His foreknowledge.

...God's elect, (pilgrims) chosen according to the foreknowledge of God. 1 Peter 1:1,2.

Romans 8:29,30 is often called the golden chain of redemption because it links distinct steps of God's work.

For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son...those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified... Romans 8:29,30 njkv

- **Foreknowledge:** God intimately knew and loved His people beforehand.
- **Predestination:** God marked believers out ahead of time to look like Jesus.
- **Calling:** God draws believers to Himself effectively.
- **Justification:** God declares believers righteous through Christ.
- **Glorification:** God brings believers into final eternal glory.

iii) God foreknows our response. God's determined purpose and man's response.

...I, the Lord have spoken – and I will do it! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will allow (I will not do it until) the house Israel to ask me to do this for them... Ezekiel 36:37.

For a relationship to be formed, we must choose Him first. We have the free will to accept or reject God, but our ability to choose Him is made possible only because He first pursued and enabled us. Therefore we must always remain grateful for His grace which first draws us to Himself. *John 6:44*

2. Why must we make our election sure?

Until we arrive in heaven, we are being saved, we are not saved yet. We are on the way. One common belief among many believers is the saying: "once saved, always saved". (Regardless of whether we break our covenant relationship with God or not).

- Why do genuine believers, who have departed from God, still believe they are on their way to heaven?
 - Few consider the serious consequences of departing from the Lord.
 - The elect is just on the way to heaven (ie his destination); "on the way" does not mean he is sure to arrive. If he were to change his direction, midway on this journey, arrival in heaven will not happen.
- Making every effort to make our calling and election sure must be our first priority throughout life's journey. Carpenters, in their trade, have a saying: *Measure twice, before you cut once.* Make it doubly sure to stay on course all the way.

3. How do we make our election sure?

- a) Examine the Word of God for ourselves to see what will happen on the Day of Judgement.
 - Search the Scriptures for ourselves
2 Peter 1:11 states that if we make sure, we will have an entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord. The condition is that we must make sure our election. The responsibility is ours. Don't rely on what others say.
 - Work out our salvation with fear
Our key passage in *2 Peter 1:5-8* explains how to work out and confirm our salvation – not by earning it through human effort, but by actively cooperating with God's grace to cultivate Christlike character.
- b) But if we did not make sure, what could possibly happen?
What if we are again entangled in sinful living, having escaped the pollution of the world?
...the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 2 Peter 2:20,21

Peter's point is that it would have been better for a person not to have started his faith journey at all, than to do so and to give up later. This is because a Christian, who had believed, then departed from the faith, would not only end in hell but face a stricter judgement.
- c) Examine our lives frequently to check whether our actions demonstrate faithfulness to Christ and obedience to His Word. Faith without works is dead *James 2:17*.
Repentance is proven by works. *Acts 26:20*.
- d) Learn from reputable prophets and teachers who are known to move in prophetic giftings.
In *2 Peter 1:10*, Peter warns that no prophecy of Scriptures is of any private interpretation. Can a Christian, who has departed from the faith, end up in hell?

Consider one example from K Hagin

(see page 111 *Driven by Eternity* quoting from Hagin's book *I believe in Visions*)

In the vision, the Lord showed Kenneth Hagins a pastor's wife he had known. She had believed a lie that her abilities and beauty were being wasted in the ministry. Soon she entertained thoughts of fame, popularity and wealth that she could have in the world. Eventually she left her husband and went out searching for the success she desired.

The Lord said: *This woman was a child of Mine* and then instructed Hagin not to pray for her.

Hagin asked: *Lord, what will happen to her?*

The Lord replied: *She will spend eternity in the regions of the damned, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The Lord then reminded Hagins of *1 John 5:16...if any one sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that (nkjv).*

...It is impossible for those who were once enlightened... if they fall away to renew again unto repentance...Hebrews 6:4-6.

Hagins was raised in a denomination where many believed in unconditional eternal security. So, for Hagin, this experience was a big mindset change.

Hagin himself had earlier thought that the death referred to was a physical or bodily death, not an eternal death. But, in his vision, he said that the Lord had clarified that it was eternal death mentioned in 1 John 5.

- e) Keep in fellowship with fellow believers.

Keeping the Lord's Day enable us to receive godly teaching.

Hearing the Word of God keeps our faith in check.

My application

- f) 2 Peter 1:5-7 list out 7 character traits to live out our faith so that we will "never fall".

Faith – foundational faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

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○ Goodness – God's moral excellence and goodness for a holy life.

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○ Knowledge – God's Word for all the practical truths you will need.

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○ Self-control – A God-controlled self over one's passions, desires, impulses.

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○ Perseverance – A God-reliant steadfastness under pressure or suffering.

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○ Godliness – Godlike character in daily actions.

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○ Brotherly kindness – God's affection and loyalty for the brethren in the church family.

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○ Love – God's agape (sacrificial) love to seek the highest good for all people.

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Application:

- How would you carry out self examination to make your election sure.