

“In”

Transformed part 1: Chosen

On Sunday we began our new series Transformed. In this series we will be looking at how Jesus' death on the cross is applied to our lives through salvation. We will be working through what theologians call the Order of Salvation. The first part is Election, which is defined as ***an act of God before Creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.*** The New Testament shows that this great truth is 1) a great source of comfort for believers, 2) a great reason to worship and 3) a great motivation for telling others the good news!



Questions

1. Have you ever been chosen for something (team, job, marriage...)? How did this make you feel?
2. God's choice of us in election is shown by Paul to be of great comfort to believers in Romans 8:28-29. No matter what circumstances you are facing the God who has chosen you will ultimately work things out for your good. What situations are you facing at the moment that this truth could give you comfort through it? Share honestly.
3. How can the truth of election spur us forward into greater worship of God in our lives? Share some practical ideas with one another.
4. In Acts 18:9-10 we see that the fact that “(God) has many in this city who are people...” is a great motivation for evangelism. Who are those in your life that you would like to see God save? Ask yourselves the questions “Where are they on their journey to Jesus?” and “What can I do to help?”

Going Deeper...

There are notes below with many references to look up. Also I would recommend the book **Chosen for Life** by **Sam Storms** which particularly looks at the Doctrine of Election.

“Out” by Melanie Crane

It's a full term and we want to help you make the most out of the events we have planned. Here is what we think you should do in your group this week...

Fire Works Night happens in November and then Crafty Christmas and our Christmas Carol happen in December so have a **THINK** now about who to invite to what. Fire Works Night is a fantastic opportunity to get some friends together and watch a display and then go back to some ones house for cake and hot chocolate. Christmas is easy because in this nation people still like to go to church at Christmas. If you have friends with children why not invite them to Crafty Christmas or think about serving at the event – we need you! How about making a giant list now of people you want to invite to our Christmas Carol and then start praying they would say yes and come. **ASK** the right people to the right events. For any help with this ask me!!!

I would love to know what you are getting up to so please text: 07929791382 or mail melaniecrane@ntlworld.com

Events Coming Up...

Tuesday 3rd November – **Equipped: Thorny Issues – Homosexuality** 7:45 at the Charis Centre

Tuesday 10th November – **Equipped: Men of Stortford part 1** 7:45 at the Charis Centre

Tuesday 17th November – **Equipped: Men of Stortford part 2 7:45** at the Charis Centre

This Sunday...

A different kind of Sunday with no sermon. Instead we will have an extended time of worship and meeting with God.

Notes from Transformed Part 1: Chosen



Recommended Reading for series

- Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem: Part 5 chapters 31-43
- OR**
- Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem: Part 5 chapters 17-25

Recommended Reading for this Sermon

- Chosen for Life by Sam Storms

Order of Salvation

- **Election (God's choice of people to be saved)**
- The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
- Regeneration (being born again)
- Conversion (faith and repentance)
- Justification (right legal standing with God)
- Adoption (membership in God's family)
- Sanctification (right conduct in life)
- Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
- Death (going to be with the Lord)
- Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

Introduction

- **Election** = is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure
- ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*** (Ephesians 1:3-4)

1. God's heart is a heart of love

- God's desire for all to be saved (Ezekiel 33:11, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:6-17)
- God loves all and invites all by sending out the gospel message (Matthew 11:28, Acts 16:31, Acts 17:30, Revelation 22:17)

2. Many do not know Jesus - why?

- God invites but we refuse reject and disobey (John 5:39-40, John 12:46-48, Acts 7:51, Romans 10:21)
- Therefore anyone who ends up in hell only has themselves to blame
- We are all sinners - Total depravity - we will not chose God (Genesis 6:5, John 8:34, Romans 3:10-18, Romans 8:7, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 2:1-3)
- We reject Jesus, we are spiritually dead

3. What about freewill?

- The concept of freewill must be carefully explained
- 1. Only God truly has free will - to do what he wants
 - we have choices, but our will is not totally free our choices are limited choices
- 2. Choices we make come out of the heart we have or nature in us
 - if we do not love God we can not chose him
 - Proverbs - out of the heart, wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:22-23)
 - Romans 5:10 - while we were **enemies** Christ died
- How Lazarus was physically is how we are spiritually (see John 11)
- We can't choose God! dead people don't chose anything!

Conclusion

- The reason anyone of us are Christians is because God chose us! This is called Unconditional election
- We see God's choosing of people (election) through out the Bible – e.g. Abraham, Jacob, Israel, Judges, Prophets, Kings (Saul and David), John the Baptist, Jesus, Church (1 Peter 1:1, 1 Peter 2:9)

A. How should we respond to this teaching on Election?

Take comfort

- Because we are called by God and He has acted for our good then present circumstances are going to be used by Him for our good as well (Romans 8:28)

As a reason to praise God

- Ephesians 1:5-6, 1:12
- Paul praised God for the Thessalonians because he knew their salvation was because of God's choice of them (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- This destroys pride in our life and produces humility

An encouragement to evangelism

- Paul will keep preaching because he knows God has chosen some and he will do this in spite of suffering (2 Timothy 2:10, Acts 18:9-10)
- Election is the guarantee of success in evangelism

B. Some Objections to the Doctrine of Election

- **Election means we do not have a choice to whether we accept Christ or not**
 - God can sovereignly work through our desires so that he guarantees that our choice, because God causes us to chose Christ voluntarily
 - God has chosen us not because we believed but in order that we believe
- **Doctrine of election means that unbelievers never had a chance to believe**
 - Bible does not allow for us to say unbelievers had no chance - this puts blame on God for their unbelief and did not chose it (John 8:43-44, John 5:40, Romans 1:20)
 - Unbelievers who remain in unbelief do so because they are unwilling to come to God
 - Anybody who goes to hell does so over Jesus' dead body
- **Election is unfair**
 - It would be perfectly fair for God to save no one
 - Who are we to answer back to God (Romans 9:20-24)

C. Misunderstandings of the Doctrine of Election

- **Election is not based on God's foreknowledge of our faith**
 - Romans 8:29 is used to support this but this passage speaks of the foreknowledge of a person not facts about them that they would believe
 - Bible does not talk about our faith being a reason God chose us - in fact the opposite (Romans 9:11-13)
 - Romans 11:5-6 shows remnant chosen by grace not on basis of their faith
 - Ephesians 1:5-6 no evidence of faith just God's love and desire
- **Election based on something good in us (our faith) would be beginning of salvation by works**
 - We could be led to the thinking that we deserve to be saved because of our faith
 - Faith is a gift of God anyway! (Ephesians 2:8)