

**Church of Christ**  
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God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies; The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him. The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

- Nahum 1:2-7

**Assemblies**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Sunday Morning | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening | 6:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday      | 7:30 p.m. |

**Elders**

|              |              |
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| Tom Brown    | 502-921-2778 |
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| John Smith   | 502-231-5341 |

**Evangelists**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
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**Sermons, Articles, and More at  
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# Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ  
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 30 Number 10

October 2006

## Chosen By God

To be chosen for honor and glory by men is usually deemed a privilege. Some are chosen to serve in important positions in the government. Others are chosen to lead a corporation. Still some are appointed to run a charity. Though it is an honor to be chosen by our fellowman, there is no greater privilege than to be chosen by God.

### Christ

God chosen Jesus as the Savior of the world. He taught this as is evidenced by His enemies' words. "And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God'" (Luke 23:35). Yes, Jesus is the Christ, chosen of God and rejected by man (1 Pet. 2:4). He was the only one who could meet the righteous requirements of the law—the only one who could be the perfect sacrifice (Jn. 1:29).

Since Jesus is the one chosen by God, then we are duty bound to honor Him as such. It is only through Jesus that we can be saved (Jn. 8:24). We are to follow His example and obey His word (1 Pet. 2:21; Jn. 14:15). This includes following the apostles as they followed Christ and giving heed to their word (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Jn. 9-11). When Christ tells us to love our enemies, or put Him before material possessions, or beware of false prophets, we must do it (Matt. 5:43-48; 6:19-34; 7:15-20). Why, because He is chosen of God.

### Witnesses

God chose witnesses to go out into the world. Peter told the household of Cornelius that the resurrected Christ appeared to Him and a select group of others, "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead" (Acts 10:41). Paul was also chosen. He was told, "The God

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of your fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth” (Acts 22:14). Other than those chosen by God, there are no “witnesses” of God or Christ.

The witnesses had to see and hear the resurrected Christ. No man or woman living today meets this requirement. Paul said that he was the last to see the Lord (1 Cor. 15:8). Any who claim to be a witness today are either self-deluded or liars. Yes, we can tell others about our experience in learning and obeying the truth. We can tell them how we were sinners and now are saints. But this is not “witnessing” in the biblical sense of the word.

### **Christians**

Paul wrote, “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world...God has chosen the weak things of the world...and the base things of the world...the despised God has chosen...” (1 Cor. 1:27, 28). James said, “Listen, my beloved brethren; Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” (Jas. 2:5). In other words, God chooses those who are humble. Before time began, God chose who would and who would not go to heaven—NOT individually, however. He chose, determined, decided, that the gospel would appeal to a certain character. Men who are aware of their sin and need for God’s grace are the “chosen.”

If we are puffed up, stubborn in heart, and intent on doing things our way, we are not chosen of God. He has no use for men who live in rebellion and resistance to Him. He wants those who are submissive and compliant, those who will conform to His will. It is a privilege to be chosen by God. He is the Creator and Sustainer of life. He is the ruler of the universe and the one before whom we shall stand in judgment. To be chosen by such a one is an honor. Our recognition of this honor will show in our actions. Among other things, we will worship Him, pray to Him, and teach others about Him.

We cannot be chosen by God to be the Savior, nor witnesses. However, we can be chosen to be Christians. If you are willing to do His will—and do it—you are chosen by God (Jn. 17:17).

- Steven F. Deaton

## **Can You Teach?**

Paul rebuked the Hebrews for not being able to teach (Heb. 5:12-14). They ought to have been able to instruct others about God’s will, but were in need of teaching themselves. Their growth was stunted, their maturity in the Lord lacking. We pity the person with physical immaturity or mental retardedness. Do we feel the same way about an underdeveloped soul? What if it is ours?

Christians need to grow to the point they can teach others. Timothy was given the charge to “commit these [gospel truths] to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). We do not expect brethren to be able to sit down and address all the points of Premillennialism with a Baptist preacher. However, every Christian ought to be able to teach their neighbor what to do to be saved—with the ability to address common objections to the gospel plan of salvation.

Address the following and see if you can give four or fives scriptures—book, chapter, and verse—and/or arguments for each.

- Can you teach someone that baptism is essential for salvation?
- Can you teach someone that the thief on the cross is not our pattern for going to heaven?
- Can you teach someone that the Old Testament is not authoritative for us?
- Can you teach someone that faith alone is a false doctrine?
- Can you teach someone that once saved always saved is a false doctrine?
- Can you teach someone that the Bible can be understood?
- Can you teach someone that we can understand the Bible alike?
- Can you teach someone that the Bible does not support many “roads” to heaven?

No, we will not give the answers in this article. If you do not know them, search the scriptures until you find them. These are basic. If you cannot address them and answer them adequately, then how do you hope to discuss salvation with others?

Let us not fall under the same condemnation as the Hebrews—babes in need of milk. Let us teach to the souls of others, and our own.

- Steven F. Deaton