

# Announcements and Church News

## Our Sick

Bob Haddock- shingles; Marta Core- began radiation trmts; John Benson- recovering from hip replacement surgery; Pat Ledford- shingles; Tim Miller-doing better; Shirley Lydic-doing better; Ronnie Sommerville, Jr- finished radiation trmt; Delia Schlachter back issues; Teresa Broyles cancer treatment; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Guery & Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;

Les Vasterling's- brother James hospitalized for infection; Lydia MacClain's- father, Ray needs prayers; Lexi Cahill's- mom Kelly/chemo trmt; Molly Burgess's-daughter, Carrie/needs kidney transplant; Dottie Curls- son Douglas/serious health issues; The Adam's-granddaughter Trinity; Jackie Clark's mother Dorothy and grandmother Gayle/health issues; Patrick Pinto's-sister Angelina & nephew Joshua for prayers; Lexi Cahill's-grandfather/lung cancer & prayers for brother Jacob; Carol Untied's-stepmom Emily/shoulder surgery; Paula Davis- friend Tracey; Carol Mitchell- tumor on liver; The Stewart's-bro-in-law Russell Holt; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's-wife Phyllis; Van Stewart's-aunt, Linda Parsons; Dianne Stewart's-brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles'-niece's baby; Paula Davis'-niece/lupus; Darrell Broking-health issues.

### PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Charlotte Bytheway's cousin Janet Chaney; Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dyianna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Linda Haddock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Mattie Simmons brother Joe Hooks and friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Pete Pepjess and Marie Woleck.

**INMATES:** Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

**OUR SERVICE MEN:** Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

**SHUT INS:** Wayne Bishop (Coral Oaks), Delia Schlachter, Joyce Stanley and Guery & Nancy VanWinkle

## Activities

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**—This Friday, November 3rd at 1:00pm in the small building.

**MEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE CLASS**—This Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00pm in the small building.

**MEN'S LECTURESHIP**—Eagle Lake Church of Christ on Saturday, November 4th. For more information pick up a flyer in the foyer.

**FALL FAMILY CAMP**— At Weeki Wachee Christian Camp from November 10th-12th. For more information pick up a flyer in the foyer.

**GOSPEL MEETING**— At the South Florida Ave Church of Christ from November 12th-15th. Flyers can be found in the foyer.

**BAPTIZED**— Please welcome two new brothers in Christ, Joe Stabile and James Miller. Joe and James have been studying with Mark Bernhardt and both put on the Lord in baptism last Sunday, October 22nd. They both reside at Clearwater Center, 1270 Turner St., Clearwater, FL 33756-5921. Please add their information to your directory.

**FOYER TABLE**— The Calendar and Schedule of Those To Serve for November are on the table in the foyer.

**TIME CHANGE**— Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, November 5th. Reminder to turn your clocks back one hour.

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

*Greeters— Mary Bonelli/Carol Untied*

*Announcements—James George*

*Song Leaders—James George/Joe Bonelli*

*Scripture Readers—Rob Schlachter/Randall Deily*

*Opening Prayer—Mark Bernhardt/David Jones*

*Lord's Table—Max Herman*

*Closing Prayer—Bob Haddock/Patrick Pinto*

## Birthdays This Week

Zack Stewart—November 2nd

**CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Office: (727) 446-4808  
1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater, FL 33756-2357

October 29, 2023  
centralcofcchrist@gmail.com  
www.centralcofcchrist.com



Gospel Broadcasting Network

http://gbntv.org YouTube

https://spiritualsword.org/



SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at

7:30am Sunday YouTube

watch & hear Phil Sanders



YouTube

(24/7) to hear Jeff Archey



fsop.net



soaringforsouls.com



Childhaven Children's

Home in Cullman, AL

www.childhaven.com



cocindia.net



Fairhavenchildrenshome.com

www.christiancourier.com

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking

Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance

South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

Czech Republic Missions —Tony/Heidi Orellana

### Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles

James George

### Deacons:

Max Herman

Van Stewart

**Preacher: Charles Broyles**

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

**Sunday Bible Class—9:30AM**

Charles Broyles

**Book of Revelation-Chapter 3**

**Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM**

Charles Broyles

**You Reap What You Sow**

Galatians 6:7-8

**Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM**

Charles Broyles

**Are You Ready To Suffer?**

Matthew 5:10-12

**Men's Bible Study—Thursday**

November 2nd at 7:00PM

**Ladies Bible Study—Friday**

November 3rd at 1:00PM

**Wednesday Bible Study—7:00PM**

Charles Broyles

**The Problem of Sin**



All services are available!

facebook.com/central.cochrist.31



@centralcofc-clearwater



## From the Preacher's Pen

### **ELECT, CALLED, AND CHOSEN**

Victor M. Eskew

The words that title this article are not used by members of the church of Christ very often even though each one of them is found numerous times in the New Testament. One of the reasons we do not is because Calvinism has highjacked the terms. In fact, not only has Calvinism highjacked the words, but it has also attached meanings to them that are false. In this article, we want to look at these terms in light of God's holy Word.

In Matthew 24, Jesus uses the word "elect" three times in His discussion of the fall of Jerusalem. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22). In verse 24, He uses the words again. "For these shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Verse 31 carries the third time the Lord uses the word "elect." "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

The Greek word in each one of these verses is "eklektos." The prefix "ek" means "from" or "out of." The root word, "lego," means "to gather, pick out." The elect are those who have been gathered out of the world. Another way to describe these individuals is by using the words "the saved." Let's insert the words "the saved" into Matthew 24:22. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: for the saved's sake those days shall be shortened." No one would deny that "the elect" and "the saved" are synonymous. This is true in every instance where the words "the elect" are used. Let's look at one other verse. In Colossians 3:12, Paul reveals the clothing of God's elect. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." Now listen to the verse using the words "the saved." "Put on therefore as the saved of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."

The second word in our study is the word "called." To the saints in Roman, Paul wrote: "Among whom ye also are the called of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:6). The church at Corinth was also part of the called. "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (1 Cor. 1:2). To be "the called," there must have been a call that was issued to these individuals. Was this call a personal God from God? Was this a miraculous sign given to these individuals? We are not left in the dark regarding the call. Paul reveals that individuals are called by the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:14). Jesus wanted this call to go forth throughout the world. He told His apostles: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). However, not all men are a part of "the called." In fact, Jesus tells that "many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14).

This leads us to the third word of our study, "chosen." In the Revelation, Jesus is presented as being victorious over His enemies in Revelation 17:14. In that verse, those who are with Him are "called, and chosen, and faithful." Peter referred to his readers as "a chosen generation" (1 Pet. 2:9). Paul told the church at Ephesus God had chosen them before the foundation of the world. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph. 1:4).

There are two main views regarding these three words. The Calvinist says that God elected CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS to be saved before He laid the foundations of the world. These are the ones who experience God's call. They cannot resist the call because God has chosen them to be in the number of the redeemed. Here is how one author sets forth the doctrine of election: "Unconditional Election is defined in this manner through the catechisms and confessions: God did, by His most wise and holy counsel, of His own, freely and unchangeably ordain some men to heaven and some men to hell by the nature of His good pleasure. In eternity, God has predetermined the course of everything and everyone. He had foreordained the eternal destiny of everyone whether to heaven or to hell for His glory. Men are unconditionally elected by God for His purposes without any prior works (good or evil) by which God would judge them good or evil. The election of men rests solely on the counsel and purposes of God. God has not decreed anything which he foresaw in the future, for that would place His decree upon foreseeing something in the creature" (Unconditional Election – compiled by Dr. C. Matthew McMahon | Reformed Theology at A Puritan's Mind (apuritansmind.com)).

This view of election opposes the free moral agency of man. Men are said to choose God because God has already chosen them. Their election is unconditional. They cannot resist God's grace. They will definitely be saved because God elected them to salvation.

The second view of election states that God elected a CERTAIN GROUP of individuals to be saved. This group of individuals is composed of all who obey the call of the gospel. This view is the one that is consistent with several teachings of the gospel. First, the Bible teaches that men are free either to serve God or to reject God (Josh. 24:15). Second, the Bible teaches that Jesus died for all and not just a select group of people only (2 Cor. 5:14-15). Third, the Bible teaches God is not a respecter of persons who chooses to save one person and not another (Rom. 2:11). Fourth, the Bible teaches that there are conditions of salvation that all can meet in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). Fifth, this view is consistent with the teaching that God's nature is love, that is, looking out for the best interests of all men (1 John 4:16).

Dear reader, are you part the elect? Have you given heed to God's call of salvation? Are you part of the chosen? You do not have to wonder whether you have been elected or not, or wait to be part of the saved. God secured the salvation of all men through the death of Jesus on Calvary (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). However, God will not force men to be saved. Thus, He gave conditions of salvation that must be obeyed in order to be one of the elect. The terms are simple: hear the word of God (Rom. 10:17), believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), confess the name of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). Note: God did not predetermine your eternal destiny. He left that choice in your hands.