

# Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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## You Are His Chosen Elect!

### Believe It and Be Encouraged!

As I write this, we're in the middle of blackberry season. We have our own berry patch in a corner of our yard; it's about 30 feet long and 15 feet high; I've fallen off ladders into the thorns many times through the years; it's only by God's Grace and Mercy that I'm still alive and relatively 'whole' but I've finally got it down to a science: the freezer fills every year. We thaw them, add sugar and citric acid to enjoy them over homemade vanilla ice cream or as blackberry shortcake with ice cream.

Here's my point: when I pick, I don't want over-ripe berries; they quickly spoil and the rot easily spreads. With each cluster I reach, I first

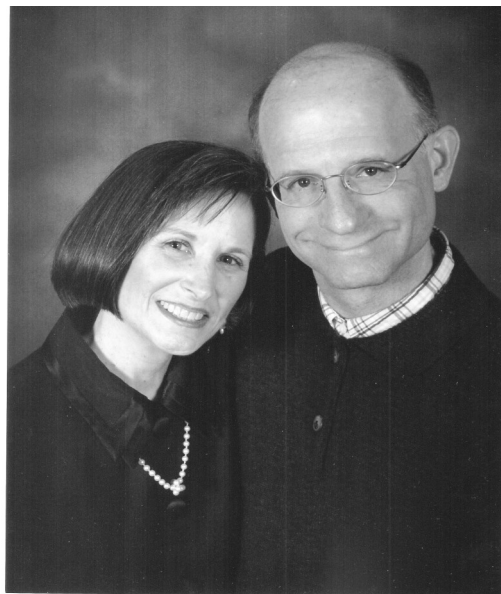
give it a hearty shake; the overripe ones fall away and I gather the rest of the ripe ones as my harvest. A few days later, more will be just right with none falling off from the shaking. God has been harvesting His chosen souls during the past 2000 years, through the Gospel, which we are expected to carry to the lost; those whom He has chosen, whose hearts He has prepared, will respond but the rest will reject.

God's Word to Man from Adam until the Final Judgment is about one overarching narrative: God will glorify Himself through His having created and chosen a people for Himself, a group selected by Him according to His Own Will and Purpose, to save eternally. Like my blackberries, God also shakes in order to discard all but His Elect; He shakes His Elect to strengthen and sanctify us and He shakes the rest who will, regrettably, reject His Word, die and go to hell. He is shaking us now and that shaking will increase rapidly as we approach the coming election and even more, after the True Church is removed in the Rapture.

Now we get to the meat: the Truth of God's having chosen a certain group, both Jews and Gentiles alike, from the foundation of the World is His promise of comfort and hope to His Elect but it is also a most despised Doctrine in God's Word; a second most hated doctrine is that of the Pretribulation Rapture of the True Church before God unleashes His Wrath and Judgment on the World, which has, for so long, rejected and hated Him, His Son and His chosen True Church.

I won't prove the Rapture, here; you can search it out for yourself in your own Bible: look up these sections of Scripture and mark them as you do: John 14: 1-3, Rev. 3:10, Phpp 3:20-21, Dan. 12: 1-2, 1Cor. 15:51-53, 1Thes 4:16-18, 1Thes 5:2,9, 2Thes 2:3-7, Luke 12:40, Titus 2: 13, Luke 17:34-36, 1John 3: 2-3 and others...

The Rapture of the True Church is a well proven Doctrine of hope and encouragement. Jesus said that when He comes at the Rapture, the World will be like it was before Noah's Flood, when He preserved just 8 people and in Sodom before His angels rescued



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**May God richly  
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

only 4: look up Luke 17:26-30, 34-36. Now we really come to the meat: look up 2Peter 3:1-11; keep it open before you as we go through this:

Who is Peter writing to? We see in 2Peter 1:1-2, that he is writing to us, to believers, to comfort and to give us peace. Then, in 3:1, he repeats that he is writing to us, to believers.

In 1Pet 1:2, he says that we are: '**Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit:**' this does not mean that God looked forward and saw who would believe so that they then became 'the elect.' The word for foreknowledge, in the Greek is: 'prognosis' it means '*an intimate knowing, having determined to cause its happening; prearranged forethought.*'

God is composing this through Peter; this is written to us, God's Elect, throughout the past 2000 years.

Luke uses the same Greek word: prognosis, of Jesus: '*...(Jesus), being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*' Acts 2;23. Jesus' birth, life and crucifixion were all according to God's predetermined plan from eternity past. The same is true of His election of us. In 1Pet 2:9, he writes: '*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.*'

Paul writes often that we are chosen/elect: '*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:*' <sup>5</sup> ***Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*** Eph 1:4 Now, even meatier, Peter writes: '*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*' 2Peter 3:9 This verse is often used more than any other to try to disprove the crucial doctrine of our having been chosen and elected by God from the foundation of the World but, as Inigo Montoya in *The Princess Bride* says: '*You Keep Using That Word, I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means.*' The Truth of our having been specifically chosen and kept secure by God, the Father, as a love-gift to His Faithful Son, should be to us, Jesus Christ's Bride, of the utmost comfort and encouragement to enable us to endure every hardship in this tiny slice of our eternal existence as we look forward to His coming for us, one day soon, in the Rapture. But rather than a wonderful source

of God's comfort, this proves to be one of the most heatedly hated doctrines in all of God's Word for 2 reasons: first, a man desperately wants to believe that he has had some part in his own salvation; 'I was good enough so that God chose me; I was smart enough to recognize the Truth; there was some spark of goodness in me that God recognized and wanted'... and on and on it goes. Secondly, we cry out that it is so unfair that God would choose some and not others, that some were chosen for eternal life while others were not... God would never allow someone to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire! But **God is not fair**; He has never been fair! If He were fair, we would all spend eternity in the Lake of Fire... wouldn't we!? We are all sinners! But God, for His Own plan and purpose chose to pour out His Grace, Love and Mercy upon some, specific undeserving humans, throughout time, from every tribe, tongue and people group. Back to 1Peter 3:9: if this verse really means that God doesn't want anyone at all to ever perish and that He wants everyone, always to be saved, then one of two things is true: either God is not telling the truth or He is incapable of accomplishing His Will in the Earth and is, rather, the victim of Man's sovereignty, of Man's choices but we know that neither of those are true; none of that is what God is conveying to us in this verse.

Remember, Peter is writing to us, to believers for our encouragement. '*God is not slack concerning His Promise to US. He is longsuffering TO US-WARD*': in fact, just the opposite is true regarding His patience toward the unsaved, unchosen, unelect lost; His patience toward them is only to show His mercy and riches upon us, His Elect: '*What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*' <sup>23</sup> *And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he*

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had afore prepared unto glory,<sup>24</sup> Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?<sup>Rom. 9:22</sup>

The Greek word for 'us' is *hemas*: it means: us/we/our group... He is patiently waiting toward US in order to bring every one of us, His Elect, safely to Salvation. He is not willing that any of US should perish; the Greek word for any is *tis*: its most common translation is *certain or some*. He is not willing that any of a certain group, that any of a 'certain some' should perish... but that all of said 'certain some' should come to repentance. The Greek word for 'all,' that 'all should come to repentance,' is *pas*; it means *all/whole*: the whole group of 'us,' those chosen by God from the foundation of the World.

We cannot say that God is not willing that any people, ever, should ever perish; look at the Flood of Noah. God caused the whole World, billions of people, men, women and children, to perish, saving only His elect 8 souls. God did that; He made them all to perish; He willed that to occur. You cannot say that God was not willing for any of those billions to perish; He was willing that they should all perish! Look at Sodom: God caused fire and brimstone to pour down and kill untold thousands while saving only His chosen 4 souls. God did that; He made them perish; He

willed that! He was not unwilling for that to happen.

Devine Judgment is coming for the whole World very soon in the Tribulation. Billions will be killed in Judgments from God; He will cause many billions to perish; He is going to do that, to will that. You cannot say that God is not willing for anyone, ever to perish: it is patently untrue. And you cannot say that God desires all men everywhere at all times to come to repentance because, like the faith to believe, repentance is also, only by God's gift; true repentance is only by God's sovereign gifting: 'When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles **granted repentance unto life.**' Acts 11:18

'In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure **will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.**' 2Tim 2:25 Peter is not writing to unsaved people to bring them to salvation; he is writing to believers over the next 2000 years, to give comfort, encouragement, peace and hope. An even fuller understanding of 2 Pet 3:9, taking in the better understanding of the Greek words would be:

'The Lord is not slow concerning His promise to US, to come for us in the Rapture, but is patient and long-

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suffering toward US; He is not willing that any of US, His chosen generation, should ever perish without eternal life, but that ALL of US, His elect, over the next 2000 years should come to repentance which is, itself, the gift of God.' Why is this important? Why do I stress this? I am not trying to sound more intelligent or to be argumentative or combative. My purpose is the same as Paul's, Peter's, John's and the Lord Jesus Christ's: to give comfort, encouragement and peace to God's Elect: 'But (we) are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that (we) should show forth the praises of Him who has called (us) out of darkness into his marvelous light.' 1Pet 2:9

**You've been Chosen by God as His love-gift to His Faithful Son!**

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**The Harvest is Great, but the laborers are few.** Matt 9:38

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