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# THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

**2 Timothy 1:1-2**  
**Lesson #22**  
**"In Christ"**  
**09/24/2023**

1

### 1 Timothy left us with these challenges?

- ✓ **It's not our circumstances, but how we respond to them, that shape our lives going forward.**
- ✓ **It's not our worldly blessings, but how we use them, that make them true wealth.**



**Where do we get the will & ability to walk the Way of the Cross in this life?**

2

### How does Paul address these issues?

*Ephesians 1:1*

"Paul, an apostle of **Christ** Jesus by the will of God, to the saints (*who are at **Ephesus***) and who are faithful **in Christ** Jesus;"

- ✓ **Outside Christ** - those who are spectators, seekers, skeptics, or hostile to the faith.
- ✓ **In Christ** - those who are united with Christ through faith. (the term is used 13 times in ch. 1)
- ✓ **Of Christ** - those who are ambassadors for Christ called and gifted for a mission.

**Those who once were OUTSIDE Christ are now IN Christ and are called to live as OF Christ.**

3

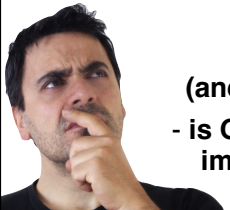
*2 Timothy 1*

"1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the **promise of life in Christ Jesus**, 2 to Timothy, my beloved son: **Grace, mercy and peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

### What does it mean to be "in Christ"?

**CHRIST**

- is God's **ELECT** (and we with him by faith).
- is God's **RIGHTEOUSNESS** imputed to our account.




4

*2 Timothy 1*

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### What does it mean to be "in Christ"?



*Galatians 3*

"27 For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with (put on) **Christ**. . . . 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

**We have a new identity & status before God.**

5

*Ephesians 1*

"3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as He **chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to **adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His **grace**, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**. 7 **In Him** we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the **mystery of His will**, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the **summing up of all things in Christ**, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. **In Him** 11 also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to **hope in**

**CHRIST is God's ELECT, and we with (in) him by our faith.**

6

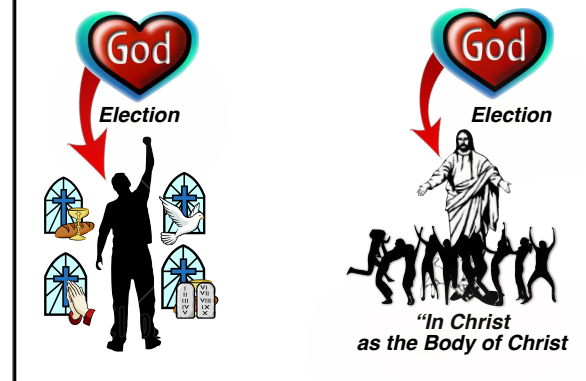
## Two views of God's "election"

Christ is the chosen one.	We are the chosen ones.
We become chosen when we are united with (in) him by faith.	Christ's death is God's gift to the chosen (elect).
Our faith (in Christ's work) is what justifies us before God and unites us with Christ.	Faith & faithfulness are gifts of God to the elect only, bringing new birth.
Arminian emphasis	Calvinistic emphasis

- Note the emphasis is on "Christ" (not God's election of us) with the benefits going to those who are "in Christ" by faith.
- The theme of Ephesians is the centrality and Lordship of Christ in all that God has created.
- Before we become too dogmatic on which view is orthodox, we should try to appreciate (respect) the evidence for the other side.

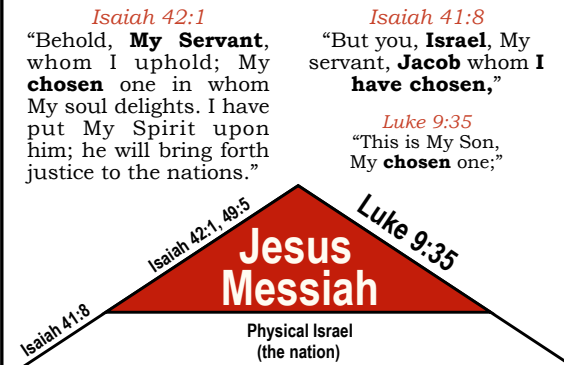
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## Two views of divine "election"



8

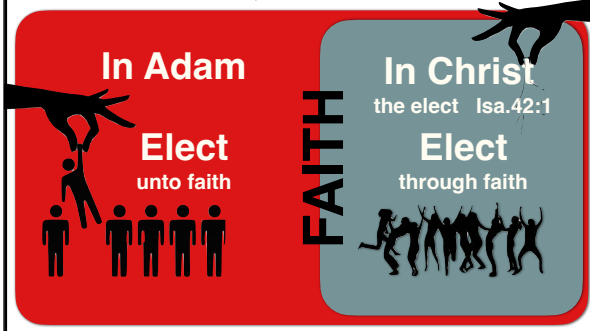
## The chosen (elect) servant?



9

## 1 Corinthians 15:22

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."



10

## The chosen (elect)



11

## Arguments for corporate election "in Christ"

1. The Biblical emphasis on "in Christ".
2. The emphasis on "personal faith".
3. The possibility of apostasy.
4. The difficult implications of individual election - love, ethics, just judgment, relationship, etc.
5. Alternative explanations of key passages - Eph. 1, John 6, Rom. 9



12

**Christ is our holiness,  
not our means to live perfectly.**

*1 Corinthians 1:2*

“to the church of God which is **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:.”

*1 Corinthians 1:30*

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us wisdom** from God, and **righteousness and sanctification**, and redemption.”

*Philippians 3:9*

“and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, **but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**”

13

**Two theoretical narratives of  
reconciliation between man and God**

**Paraclete  
(Enabler)**



Jesus' Spirit  
empowers us  
to be righteous as  
he works in  
and through us.

(Holiness, Roman Catholic)

**Surrogate  
(Substitute)**



Jesus  
is our holiness  
through an  
imputation of his  
righteousness to us.

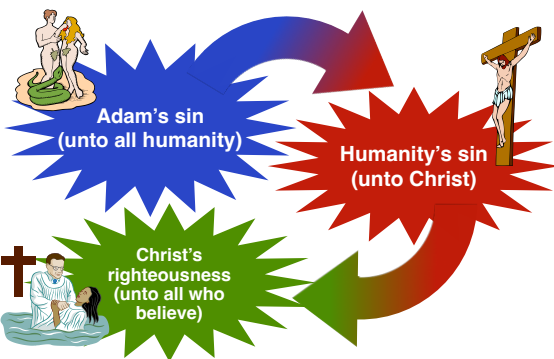
(Reformation Protestant)

14

**The good news of the Gospel  
is that we are justified,  
not BY our good works  
but by Christ's good works  
credited to us as we are  
“in Christ” by faith.**

15

**Three great imputations**



16

*Ephesians 2*

“4 But **God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 **For by grace you have been saved** through faith; **and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;** 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

**Done**

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we **should walk in them.**

**Do**

17

**Two levels of REPENTANCE / FAITH**

**REPENT & BELIEVE**



for **FAMILY** identity,  
“Strategic”  
(initiation, once)

- ★ Hope
- ★ Conversion

repent & behave



for **FRUITFUL** living,  
“Tactical”  
(several times)

- ★ Ethics
- ★ Communion

*Hebrews 6:1*

“let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**”

18

## Positional righteousness

*Romans 4:5*

“But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,**”

*Romans 5*

“18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so **through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.** 19 For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**”

19

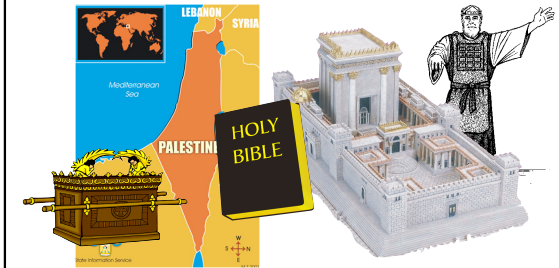
## Positional righteousness

- ✓ It is not a “felt” experience.
- ✓ It is complete and not progressive.
- ✓ It is not dependent on human merit.
- ✓ It is not secured by moral reform.
- ✓ **It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.**
- ✓ **It is revealed through teaching and received by FAITH.**

20

## Our salvation rests with our positional holiness not our practiced holiness

### 1. Positional holiness in the Old Testament



21



The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.

**This had to do with his official position not his personal character.**

Water baptism is our “positional” washing as believer priests.

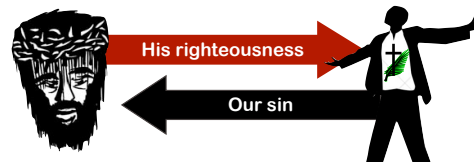
**This has to do with our union with Christ not our meritorious good works.**



22

## Our salvation rests with our positional holiness not our practiced holiness

1. Positional holiness in the Old Testament
2. **Imputed righteousness** *2 Corinthians 5:21*  
“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



23

## Official position dictates security, authority, and responsibility.



24

**This is Paul's first concern in Timothy's life?**

*2 Timothy 1*

"2 to Timothy, my beloved son: **Grace, mercy and peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord

*1 Corinthians 15*

"3 For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

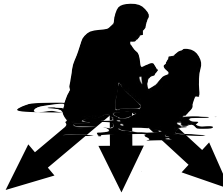
**It is about Timothy's experience of what God has given to him in Christ.**

25

*Romans 8:1*

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus.**"

**Our position in Christ inspires**



**Grace Mercy Peace**

26

# 2 Timothy

Next week  
2 Timothy  
1:3-7



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