

## Know Who You Are In Christ

**Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;**

The last words in verse 11 emphasize the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ: **Christ is all and in all.** Verses 12-13 tell the believers how to make Jesus Christ pre-eminent in their lives. Jesus Christ is pre-eminent to God the Father and therefore should be pre-eminent to every one of us.

You will recall that in the original Greek this verse starts off with the imperative...**put on.** Unlike the English, which is confined to the orderly structure of subject, verb, object, etc., the Greek uses word order to stress importance. So, to the Holy Spirit, the verb to *put on* is the important point of this verse.

**Put on** is an *Aorist Middle Imperative* of the verb meaning to ‘put on’ or ‘to enter’ or ‘to cause to get into a garment’. In the *middle* voice the subject participates in the action of the verb. It means to cause oneself to be clothed. The *Aorist* tense is important here for the constative *Aorist* gathers together every time you cause yourself to be clothed. And how do we cause ourselves to be clothed as God would have us? By faith in Holy Spirit and in the Holy Spirit, taking in more and more of an understanding of Jesus Christ in the Word of God. And again, the *Imperative* mood expresses God’s desire for every believer. The only way we can obey this command is by faith in the Holy Spirit.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

The principle behind the use of this verb is simple. What do we do every day? We put on clothes, we cause ourselves to be dressed. The fact that you put on clothes yesterday, that was nice for yesterday, but today is a new day. When we get out of bed we generally put on clothes. So it is in our spiritual lives. We may have taken in Bible doctrine yesterday, but we need to take it in today — cloth ourselves today! You don't want to run around with no clothes on! It ought to be a habit to 'take in' the Word of God.

**Put on therefore** the purpose of the inferential particle **therefore** is to show the relationship between the command just given and to the realization of who you are in Christ — **chosen, holy and beloved**. These three express the reality of who you are in Christ.

**Put on therefore those who have been chosen of God** This is so wonderful, so comforting, so reassuring. But man has made a complete mess of this wonderful act by our God. The Greek word is *eklektos* and "involves thoughtful and deliberate consideration" (Complete Word Dictionary of the New Testament) I would add 'biblical' - involves thoughtful, deliberate and biblical consideration. It is so interesting how after the all-important Reformation by Luther, Satan immediately stepped right in with Calvinism. Election has been so abused and distorted throughout the Church Age.

**Put on therefore those who have been chosen of God** This is the genitive of possession – *as the elect ones belonging to God*. So wonderful...belonging to God—secure, here is the foundation of hope and reason to keep on trusting God, even in difficult times.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

Now I would love to move on in this great verse of the bible but because so many people are so confused about Election we have to take a thoughtful, deliberate and biblical consideration of this important doctrine in the Bible.

***Doctrine of Election***

I. Problem: Does God arbitrarily choose who will believe and who will not believe? Who will be saved and who will not be saved? Did God create all mankind and then just choose who would spend eternity in the Lake of Fire and who will be in the eternal state?

The hyper-Calvinist position is that this is exactly what God did. Then, they have the audacity to call this grace. Well, this is grace for those elected under this view of God, but it can hardly be considered grace to those whom God does not choose. There is another view of Election, that we shall call the grace interpretation of Scripture and of this doctrine.

II. To correctly understand the doctrine of Election, we must start with the only one in history who is elected. That is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only person elected from Eternity Past. Isa. 42:1; 1 Pet. 2:4, 6

Election for the believer means to share the election of Jesus Christ as well as sharing the destiny of Jesus Christ. Calvin's view of Election starts with man, the ***Biblical teaching starts with the God-man, Jesus Christ.***

A. Isaiah 42:1 The Chosen One" identified in the Old Testament

Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**Isaiah 42:1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.**

**Behold** take full note

**My servant** *ebed* – one who serves the desire or goal of another

**Whom I uphold** Qal imperfect to uphold, to support. He tells us how He *upholds* His servant - **I have put my spirit upon Him**

He upholds Him by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Again, what kind of God do you have? What is your view of God? God never asks of us anything that He has not yet given the power to do.

Hold your place and look at Galatians 3:5 where we find that God does for everyone of us, what He did for His Son --- supplied with Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 3:5 So then does He who graciously supplies you with the Spirit (Holy Spirit) even working power in you**

By the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are sealed and cannot lose our salvation. This is by the Grace of God. What is so remarkable is that He does for us exactly what He did for His own son...supplied us with the Holy Spirit

Back to Isa. 42:1

**Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;**

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

Now we come to our study of the election of Jesus Christ.

**My chosen one** (King James: **mine elect**) the Hebrew adjective describes one as chosen — elected. Jesus Christ is the only person to be elected from Eternity Past. Now, just as we saw with supplying the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God the Father here, chooses or elects everyone who is in Christ. No one is elected outside of Jesus Christ. When anyone in the Church Age chooses to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior, God the Holy Spirit baptizes them into Christ and everyone in Christ is chosen by God to share the Election of Jesus Christ. No one is predestined to believe in Jesus Christ, but when we believe in Jesus Christ we share His predestination.

Next we have a special relationship between God and His elect.

**in whom My soul delight** The Hebrew word means to delight in, to take pleasure in; to accept look at.

**Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant whom I have chosen; my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased; I Will put my Spirit upon Him and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles.**

**Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**

**Matthew 17: 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them;**

Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying,  
"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-  
pleased; listen to Him!"**

Back to

**Isaiah 42:1 Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.**

So, Jesus Christ is the only person elected from eternity past.

Now, let's look at two passages that we did not look at in our flow of the Greek words:

**Luke 23:35 and the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."**

**The Christ** Messiah the anointed one,

**The Christ, the anointed one of God** His chosen one. This is the adjective *electos*, One chosen, one elected by God

The scary thing here is that while they are sneering at Him, they actually say the truth, which of course is condemnation on themselves. For in truth, Jesus Christ is the only one elected by God! in Eternity Past for this mission.

**1 Peter 2:6 For this is contained in Scripture:  
"Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a  
precious corner stone, and He who believes in  
Him shall not be disappointed.**

See that word choice stone? Well that is our adjective *electos* and only the King James translates it "elect." – **I lay in Zion an elect stone, a precious corner stone**

B. This election of Jesus Christ took place in Eternity Past, in the Eternal Life conference and we share His election. Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:2.

C. In Eternity Past God the Father purposely designed a plan in Jesus Christ; the Plan of God centers on person of Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 3:11 This was in accordance with  
the eternal purpose which He carried out in  
Christ Jesus our Lord,**

So, Jesus Christ is the only one elected in Eternity Past.

III. The heart of the doctrine of Election:

A. Jesus Christ is the only one elected/predestined by God.

B. All members of the human race are potentially elected to the Plan of God because of Unlimited Atonement 2 Tim. 2:10. When Christ was on the cross being judged for the sins of the entire world, He bore the judgment for all sins – of everyone. This takes care of the negative part of the gospel, the removal of the judgment of our sins.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

This means that any member of the human race is now free to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. By believing in Jesus Christ you now have the positive part of the gospel, that is imputed divine righteousness (+R). By one simple act of the smallest of faith you can enter into the eternal plan of God which includes entering into union with Christ who was elected in eternity past and therefore share His election. So potentially, all members of the human race can share the election of Jesus Christ. But, potential is not reality.

- C. The election of believers is that we are elected in Christ, not to be in Christ, or saved but all who believe are in the election of Jesus Christ.

Example: a father and mother elect *whomever their son marries to be in the family*. They do not elect or choose who will marry their son, but whomever does marry their son, is elected into the family because they are one in their son. On a personal basis they may not like the girl who chooses to marry their son, but they have already decided that they will elect that person into the family.

This is an analogy of our Election. We are not elected to believe or not believe in Jesus Christ, but we are elected in Christ once we believe in Him.

God the Father elected, chose, predestined Jesus Christ in Eternity Past. Then, He elected, chose, predestined all who believe in Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ is the elected one, the predestined one, and you share this election by choosing for Christ by faith in Jesus Christ. This is so clear from Ephesians:



Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**Ephesians 1: 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 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**

**Just as He** God the Father **chose us** verb of election **in Him** Not to *be in Him, but in Him* place of election is in Christ.

Question: How are we in Christ? By faith in Jesus Christ. At the point of faith in Jesus Christ we are placed by the Holy Spirit in Christ and at that point we share the election of Jesus Christ.

**Just as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, before the creation of the world** some point in Eternity past. Foolishly, people like to think the world was created billion of years ago. But what did happen billions of years ago in the establishment of divine decrees, is that Jesus Christ was elected by God.

**that we should be holy and blameless as Jesus Christ is holy and blameless before Him.** God the Father **In love He** God the Father **predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** we now share the adoption of Jesus Christ as sons of God by faith in Jesus Christ **to Himself, God the Father according to the kind intention of His will,**  
This is grace.

**2 Tim. 1:9 who (God the Father) has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not**

Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, (Again, note when this took place—Eternity Past)**

Jesus Christ is the only elected or predestined, we share the election of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, Election takes place at the moment of Salvation — saving Faith in Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 2:13

IV. Every member of the human race has the potential of sharing the Election of Jesus Christ.

**2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, (as to final events in history) as some count slowness, but is patient (in the sequence of human history) toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

It is against God's character and His Word, that any should be elected or predestined to second death or /eternal lake of fire.

**Romans 10:13 for whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved**

But there are those who claim that He does not allow everyone to call Him, if they choose to do so. This is blasphemy of God's character.

Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**2 Chronicles 19:7 (NASB) "Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness, or partiality, or the taking of a bribe."**

**2 Chronicles 19:7 (King James) Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.**

**2 Chronicles 19:7 (NIV) Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery."**

The are three different ways to translate the Hebrew word *awel*:

no part in Unrighteousness;

no iniquity;

no injustice;

The word means Unrighteousness, injustice or iniquity. It refers to anything that deviates from a perfect righteous way of doing things — the Righteousness of God: Injustice, unequal; unrighteousness;

So, it would be against the Character of God and His Word for God to choose someone to go to lake of Fire.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

Principle: Do not be caught in the debater's trap of taking one verse, which perhaps you do not understand right now, to try and prove a theory that is in opposition to the principles set forth in Scripture after Scripture, or that is not compatible with the Character of God given in Scripture.

V. The idea that anyone is elected to hell or heaven without the freedom of faith decision in Jesus Christ is:

1. Incompatible with the grace of God.
2. Incompatible with the character of God (view of God).
3. It makes a farce out of the Plan of God.
4. It impugns the essence of God, namely: Love, Righteousness/Justice; Faithfulness.

VI. Election is based on the decision of God, on the will of God, not on the decision of man or will of man. We cannot will to be elected. Our decision of faith simply appropriates the will of God. The Bible sets up principles about God: like grace and love. God does not violate these principles. Eph. 1:4; Rom. 11:5, 28; Mark 13:20; James 2:5; 1 Thes. 1:4

VII. Election is based on the person of Jesus Christ. Calvinism centers on man, while the Bible centers on Jesus Christ — He is the only one elected or predestined. We simply share His election and His Predestination by faith. We are elected in Christ, we share many things with Jesus Christ, along Jesus Christ with His election:

1. His life. 1 Jn. 5:11-12

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

2. His perfect Righteousness. 2 Cor. 5:21
3. His Sonship. Gal. 3:26; John 1:12
4. His Heirship. Rom. 8:16-17
5. His Priesthood. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9
6. His Rulership Col. 1:13 & 2 Pet. 1:11
7. His Sanctification. 1 Cor. 1:2
8. His Destiny. Eph. 1:5, 11
9. His Election. 1 Peter 1:2, Eph. 1:4

VIII. This election took place in Eternity past (Divine Decrees)

Jesus Christ was elected in Eternity Past and God made a decision in Eternity Past to elect any and all who believed in Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2

IX. Election is on basis of Grace Rom. 11:5, Gal. 1:6

X. And the only thing compatible with Grace is faith. Therefore, our Election is always on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. 2 Thes. 2:13. Election becomes effective the moment we believe in Jesus Christ.

You share this election by choosing Jesus Christ

A passage that puts a lot of this together:

**1 Peter 1:1 ...who are chosen**

Know Who You Are In Christ  
Colossians 3:12

**1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, (Eternity Past) by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ (how do we obey Jesus Christ? by faith John 3:36) and be sprinkled with His blood: (come under the covering of His efficacious work on the cross) May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.**

- XI. Orientation to election comes through Biblical truth in the human spirit Titus 1:1
- XII. Election is present as well as future – our Election should have an impact on our present life:

**Colossians 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;**

**Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

This means that everyone of you is just as much in the Plan of God as any other believer. Your life has a divine purpose. God has wonderful blessings for each one of you.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

XIII. Election is basis of facing suffering with the blessing. Rom. 8:28

XIV. The regenerate Jews of the previous dispensation, Age of Israel, also had election after faith in the coming Messiah, as part of the Plan of God. Rom. 11:1-7

**Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore those who  
have been chosen/elect of God**

This part of verse 12 explains who you are as a believer in Jesus Christ and what you should be doing every day in your life. Your soul ‘puts on clothes’ every time you listen and learn the Word of God and walk in the Holy Spirit. It is so unfortunate that so many believers are ‘naked’ in their souls. Doctrine from the Word of God is designed to make the believer’s life and experience compatible with his/her position in Christ which is further described in the next word: **holy**.

**Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore those who  
have been chosen/elect of God, Holy**

It is amazing how people can take beautiful, wonderful concepts in the Bible and distort them.

- I. There are two aspects or states of being ‘holy’.
  1. When anyone, believes in Jesus Christ they are positionally holy, that is, in their position in Christ, they are holy before God.
  2. But of course, this does not mean they are holy experientially. We should make decisions in our daily lives to be experientially what we are in position in Christ...holy.

**Know Who You Are In Christ**  
**Colossians 3:12**

- II. The Greek word 'holy' means set apart to God, sanctified, consecrated. That's right, before God you are a 'saint'. Before man you may be a 'demon' but before God you are a saint in Christ. This means before God you are perfect, pure, clean, all the things God made you when you believed in His son for salvation. You might recall in the Ten Questions of Job these were the challenges of Satan, who can make the pure out of the impure or clean out of the unclean? God does it every time a defiled unbeliever believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- III. God the Father is holy John 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:15; Rev. 4:8, Jesus Christ is holy Lk 1:35; 4:34; John 6:69; Holy Spirit is holy. Matt. 1:18; Luke 3:22; John 14:26; Acts 2:4
- IV. Believers are made holy by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Heb. 10:10
- V. It is to Saints, holy believers of the Church Age, that the mystery has been revealed. Col. 1:26-27
- VI. We should give thanks for our being made holy before God for it is because we are holy that we share in the inheritance. Col. 1:12.
- VII. Jesus Christ will be glorified in His Saints. 2 Thess. 1:10

**Col. 3:12 Put on therefore those who have  
been chosen the elect of God, Holy**

This is what you are before God, in Christ: elect and holy.