

Recap of 1/19/20 (1 Thessalonians 1:4):

1. The proof of God's love for the Thessalonians was His choice of them for salvation. He acknowledges God's election of the Thessalonians. As in other parts of the Scripture God's love and choice are linked together (for example, the Book of Malachi 1:1-3).
2. Election may be defined in the following way: "The sovereign act of God whereby He graciously chose in Christ for salvation all those whom He foreknew" (Thiessen).
3. The doctrine of "election" is meant to comfort and encourage believers, to give them security.
- "The doctrine of election confuses some people and frightens others, yet neither response is justified. We will never understand the total concept of election this side of Heaven. But we should not ignore this important doctrine that is taught through-out the Bible" (Wiersbe).
4. The teaching of Scripture:
- "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (John 6:37)
- "... and all who were appointed for eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48b)
- the word "appointed" is the Greek word "tasso," a military term meaning "to arrange or to assign."
5. Election is based upon God's sovereignty and is not based on any kind of merit on our part. (see Romans 9:6-13; Deuteronomy 7:7,8).
6. In 1 Peter 1:2, Peter writes that believers are: "...chosen [elect] according to the foreknowledge of God." Foreknowledge is interpreted in two ways: "(1) God knows who will respond to the gospel and has predestined to salvation those whom He knows will respond with faith and obedience. (2) Man's fallen will is so corrupted that on his own he can't choose to respond to the gospel in faith. In grace, God seeks and saves some sinners and not others. He chooses some, not because they are better in some way than the others, but simply because He chooses. It is not unjust for God to leave some sinners in the sin they chose; the miracle is that He saves anyone." (Compact Guide to the Christian Life)

"The Difference Jesus Makes"

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

- I. They responded to the message of the gospel vs. 5

- II. They welcomed the message in spite of suffering vs. 6

- III. They became model believers vs. 7

- IV. Their witness was known far & wide vv. 8-9a

- V. They had a new master vs. 9b

- VI. They waited expectantly for Jesus' return vs. 10