

The Few, The Humble, The Redeemed

The Few

Mat 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out **early in the morning** to hire laborers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the **third hour**, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the **sixth and ninth hour**, and did likewise. 6 And about the **eleventh hour** he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive. 8 So **when even was come**, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them *their* hire, **beginning from the last unto the first**. 9 And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying, These last **have wrought but one hour**, and thou hast made them **equal unto us**, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 *Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16 So the **last shall be first**, and the **first last**: for **many be called** (*Gk.2822- invited, that is, appointed, or [specifically] a saint*), but **few chosen** (*Gk.1588- select; by implication favorite: -chosen, elect**).

- Jesus gave this parable with regard to the Gentiles who were to come in later. They were the group that no one hired which then labored in the vineyard with the others. Their entering the vineyard at all was a mystery before Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus when he was given the apostleship *to preach to the Gentiles.

**Eph 3:3 How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; ...*

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:

- The Jews were moved with envy that the heathen nations around them were to find such favor with “*their*” God. Paul later told the Gentile converts that they were to appreciate the Jewish nation of Israel because it was through them that the Messiah would come to save all nations. Thus showing that everyone has an opportunity to be a part of the “few”.

Rom 11:28 As concerning the gospel, *they (Israel) are* enemies for your (*Gentiles*) sakes: but as touching the **election** (*Gk.1589- [divine] selection: -chosen.*) [*the chosen few which included both Jew and Gentile*]), *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes (*The salvation of Israel was promised to the patriarchs and it was because of that oath that God made with them, their progeny, the descendants that would come after them, were to be first in line to receive it- Rom 1:16*). 29 *For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance (*Matt 20:15*). 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your

mercy (*the same type of mercy given to you who were once unbelievers*) they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. (*Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved... Here speaking of "spiritual" Israel, those who are circumcised in the heart –Rom 2:29*)

The Election

1Pe 1:2 Elect (*Gk.1588)[*same Greek word found in Matt 20:16 "few chosen"*] according to the foreknowledge (*Gk.4268- Thayer: pre-arrangement*) of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto (*Gk.1519- purpose*) obedience and **sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ**: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

- The purpose of being elected in the first place was to obey God! Without which no one can be saved.

Heb 9:19 First, Moses proclaimed to the people all the commandments as set forth in the Law. Then he **took the blood** of bulls and goats, mixed it with water, and **sprinkled it on the book of the Law and all the people**, using a sprig of hyssop and some red wool. 20 He said, "This is **the blood which seals the covenant** that God has commanded you to obey." (*GNB*)

Heb 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted **the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

- This is not to be taken as a go-to passage to support baptism by "*sprinkling*" since the **New Testament** word for baptism means to "*immerse*". When a person is **Biblically** baptized they (*figuratively*) come in contact with the blood of **Christ** thus becoming sanctified by the **New Covenant** having been enjoined to it through obedience. Any action a **Christian** might commit in sin will be to have "trodden underfoot the Son of God".

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath **from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through **sanctification** (*Gk.38- purification*) of the Spirit and **belief of the truth**: 14 Whereunto He **called you by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- chosen- Gk.138- *to take for oneself, that is, to prefer*. Thus, it can be said that only the saved, those obedient to **His** word, are the preferred that **God** takes to **Himself**. Just as a parent "prefers" to have obedient children over disobedient ones and rewards them with an inheritance.

- called- Gk.2564- *to "call": -bid, call (forth)*. The only calling we should answer to is the truth that is found in the gospel message, the death, burial and resurrection of **Christ**, and obeying it is what leads to salvation. We are not to answer to some man-made doctrine by which no one can be saved.

Eph 1:4 According as He (*God the Father*) hath chosen us in Him (*Christ, God the Son*) **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him (*God the Father*) in love:

- before the foundation of the world- “προ καταβολης κοσμου” is the same Greek phrase Jesus used in John 17:24 to show the eternal origin of His Father’s love. Thus showing that God had, in eternity, was not blind-sided by man’s fall, prepared for the fall of mankind by setting a standard by which man could find favor in His sight to become part of the elect.

Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me **before the foundation of the world.**

1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **called** (to) be (“to be” is not in the original manuscripts, as though there is a man-made process where a person is “canonized” and made an intercessor. Jesus is our **only** intercessor!) **saints**, with all that in every place **call upon the name of** Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 3 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- called- Gk.2822- κλητος- *invited*, that is, *appointed*, or (specifically) a *saint*: -called. From the same as Gk.2821- κλησις- an *invitation*(figuratively): -calling. Thus making up the εκκλησια, those called out (*of the world*), a.k.a. the church.

- call upon- Gk.1941- to *entitle*; by implication to *invoke*. Thayer: to invoke, adore, worship, the Lord, i.e. Christ.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers** shall worship the Father **in spirit** and **in truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth.

Joh 14:15 If ye **love Me**, **keep** My commandments.

Mar 16:16 He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that **find it**.

- Most people are like a river that follows the path of least resistance. They leave their souls in the hands of others who tell them what to believe*. That’s the broad way of “attending the church of your choice”. The narrow way that few find takes more effort to find because it’s considered by many to be too hard to be believed, when in fact it’s very simple. They think as man thinks and not with their hearts. You can’t find something you’re not looking for with your heart, either consciously or subconsciously.

Luk 12:31 But rather **seek** ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Joh 5:39 **Search** the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

*Mat 7:21 **Not every one** that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of My Father** which is in heaven. 22 **Many** (*consisting of those who take the broad way-Matt 7:13*) will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

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The Humble

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* **be subject one to another**, and be **clothed with humility**: for **God resisteth** (*Gk.498- to oppose*) **the proud** (*Gk.5244- haughty*), and **giveth grace** (*His unmerited favor*) **to the humble**. 6 **Humble** yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may **exalt** (*honor*) **you in due time**: 7 Casting all your care (*Gk.3308- distraction*) upon Him; for He careth for you.

- be subject one to another- “*put on the apron of humility, to serve one another*” (GNB)
- humble- Gk.5011- Thayer: “*lowly in spirit*”.

Mat 5:3 **Blessed are the poor in spirit** (*the state of those who lack the mental disposition to do evil*): for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:5 **Blessed are the meek** (*Gk.4239- mild, that is, humble*): for they shall inherit the earth.

“*Meekness is patience in the reception of injuries (1 Pet 2:20). It is neither meanness nor a surrender of our rights, nor cowardice (giving in to sin to be part of the “in” crowd); but it is the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance.*”
Albert Barnes

- To inherit the earth would mean to rule over it. What coward can successfully do that? In the kingdom of **Christ**, the church, it can be said we are subjects of a theocracy with **God** as our **Ruler** and thus none can defeat us. Maybe by physical means, but the physical is only temporary. As long as we win the spiritual battles we win overall.

2Co 10:3 For **though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh**: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal, but mighty through God* to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Luk 12:22 And He said unto His disciples, **Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.** 23 **The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.**

- When Peter said we are to cast all our distractions upon God, of those he even meant the basic necessities of life; food, clothing and shelter. He was only reiterating what Jesus told him earlier. It takes a very humble Christian to do that.

Another aspect of being humble is to go against the popular thinking of the day. Especially when it involves denying the One Who saves.

Luk 9:23 And He (*Jesus*) said to *them* all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath **not** given us the spirit of **fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the world began**, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

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The Redeemed

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** (*Gk.3084- to ransom*) with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained **before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest (*revealed*) in these last times for you, 21 Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls **in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible, by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth **forever**.

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** 4 Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

- How often have you been asked by someone with a denominational understanding if you were “*born again*” after mentioning that you are a **Christian**? Is up not up, down not down? By what the **Bible** defines as being a **Christian**, **all Christians** are “born again”. But what most don’t go on to ask, or even explain, is “*have you been born of water and Spirit?*” That’s because most don’t really know what that means, are comfortable with some man’s worldly interpretation concerning it or have no desire to look into it for themselves because that would be too much work to open their **Bibles** to study it out.

Mat 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek, and ye shall find**; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For **every one** (*saint and sinner alike*) that asketh receiveth; and he that **seeketh findeth**; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

Tit 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done (*our own works won't save us*), but according to His mercy He saved us, by the **washing** (*Gk.3067- a bath, that is, [figuratively] baptism*) of **regeneration** (*Gk.3824- [spiritual] rebirth*), and **renewing** of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified (*Gk.1344- to render [that is, show or regard as] just or innocent*) **by His grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- **Born of water**...- The act of baptism is not to be understood as a work of man. It is a work of **God** that **He** expects of us to obey if we want to receive that new birth in **Christ**. Only our obedience to **His** will can render us innocent in **His** sight in order to be of those who will inherit a life in **Heaven** with **Him**.
- **...and the Spirit**- Our initial birth is physical, which was all **Nicodemus** understood and was perplexed by **Jesus**' statement about being born again. The new birth is from above and is of the inner, spiritual man. Some equate this, erroneously, with what happened to the apostles on the day of **Pentecost** after **Jesus** ascended back to **Heaven** (*Act 2*) as though **Holy Spirit** baptism happens to all believers without being obedient to water immersion. They seem to forget the **Authority** that instituted baptism in the first place.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** (*Gk.1849- token of control*) is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name** (*Gk.3686- authority*) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- Yes, baptism of the **Holy Spirit** did exist at that time but only *one baptism exists today. And that’s the baptism **Jesus** commanded in the great commission.

**Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name (*Gk.3686*) of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift** (*Gk.1431- a gratuity*) of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise (*Gk.1860- assurance*) is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall **call**.

1Jn 2:25 And this is the promise (*Gk.1860*) that He hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

- The part **Holy Spirit** plays in our salvation is in the sealing of the contract between the **Christian and God**. And not that we can't break that contract either by going back on our commitment to **Him***.

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** (*Gk.4972- to stamp [with a signet or private mark] for security or preservation [literally or figuratively]*) **with that Holy Spirit** of promise, **14** Which is the **earnest** (*Gk.728- a pledge, that is, part of the purchase money or property given in advance as security for the rest*) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

***Mat 13:41** The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather **out of His kingdom** all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Are you part of the few, the humble, the redeemed?

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **24** Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is **in** Christ Jesus:

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized **into** Christ have put on Christ.

Hear: Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in **Him Whom** they have not heard?"

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to **God** must believe that **He** is"...

Repent: Act 3:19 ... "Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: Rom 10:9 ... "if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the **Lord Jesus**, and believe in thine heart that **God** raised **Him** from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth also now save us..."

Remain faithful: 1 Cor 6:20 ... "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify **God** in your body, and in your spirit, which are **God's**."

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