

God's Elect

Col. 3:1-17 (v. 12)

Introduction:

- A. "Am I one of God's elect?" — A troubling question for many.
 - 1. *Calvinism's* idea of election is spiritually fatal.
 - 2. Free agency taught from Genesis to Revelation (Gen. 3; Josh 24:15; Matt 11:28; Rev. 3:30)
- B. Paul appeals to Colossians "as the elect of God." (V. 12)
 - 1. 23 New Testament references to *elect*, *elected* or *election*.
 - 2. "Elect" means *chosen* or *called*. — conditional, not arbitrary.
- C. Paul points out some *features* of God's elect:

Discussion:

- I. They Have Been Raised with Christ (v. 1).**
 - A. Baptized, raised and forgiven at same time. (2:12-13).
 - B. Baptism is form of death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3,4; 16-18).
 - C. Baptism points in two direction — past sins and future life. (Acts 22:16; 3:1,2).
- II. They Have Put off the Old Man (v. 9).**
 - A. His deeds must be put to death (vv. 5, 8).
 - B. His deeds subjects one to the wrath of God (v. 6).
 - C. His deeds must be kept in the past tense — "once walked", "lived" in them (v. 7).
- III. They Have Put on the New Man (v. 10).**
 - A. His deeds must now be done (vv. 12-16).
 - B. His deeds are in stark contrast to old man of past.
 - 1. Difference between "old" and "new."
 - 2. Difference between "light" and "darkness." (Col. 12,13).
 - 3. Difference between "conformed" and "transformed." (Rom. 12:2).
 - C. His deeds should be evident to our neighbors. (Matt. 5:16).
- IV. They Have Been Called to One Body (v. 15).**
 - A. Jesus is head of the body, the church (ekklesia — called out or chosen ones 1:18).
 - B. Jesus is savior of the body. (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).
 - C. Less than one body is too few, more is too many, other than is wrong one.
- V. They Have Totally Submitted to Christ's Authority (v. 17).**
 - A. "In the name of" = By the authority and blessing of.
 - B. "Whatever ... in word or deed" = complete submission.
 - C. Claiming to be "in the name of" is not enough. (Matt. 7:21-23).
 - D. Self-imposed religion is vain or useless (2:20-23; Matt. 15:9).

Conclusion:

- A. One must obey to be elected.
- B. One must continue to obey to stay elected. (Cf. 2 Pet. 1:10,11)