

God's Elect, Who Are They? What Are They Like?

In Matthew 24:24 we are told that, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Some would suggest that the elect can be deceived, but this is simply not the case. If we look at the text it says, "if it were possible" this tells us that it is not possible. The next question is, why is it not possible?

The answer to this question is simple, yet very profound. But first let's think about those who are not the elect. What chance do they have of not being deceived? None. The text makes it very clear that the deception is so strong that if it were possible the elect would be deceived. So, it is clear that everyone else is deceived. God's elect are the only ones who escape the deception. Why? Because they have surrendered everything completely and totally to Him. They are totally dependent on God for everything. I mean everything! This cannot be emphasized enough. They are totally depending on God for all their spiritual needs as well as all their physical needs. They are living the experience found in Matthew 6. They are living as Christ lived when He was here on earth, totally dependent on His father for everything. Jesus did nothing, said nothing without His father's instruction or permission. He was truly "Born Again" in the deepest sense of the word.

God's elect are the "Born Again". No one else will be allowed to enter heaven. They are not those who claim to be born again, but those who are truly born again. A belief in God is not enough, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." To be Born Again means that we have come to realize that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from sin and its consequences, hell and eternal death. The born again realize that without totally depending on God and the indwelling power of God in their lives controlling their every thought and act that they are nothing, they are lost. They can say nothing, they can do nothing that will keep them from being cast into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. It is only by complete heart felt repentance, surrender, submission, and dependence on God that they have any ray of hope of salvation. But when they do this they can be assured, and have full confidence of their salvation.

The incredible thing is, that once they have done this and continue living the experience of Matthew 6 they become the Elect of God and as such cannot be deceived and are guaranteed eternal life. The Elect follow Jesus wherever He goes. They are continually studying, learning, and doing His will. They are keeping God's commandments in spirit and in truth, and they have the faith of Jesus, a faith that keeps them right with God though the heavens fall. They stand faultless before Him. In their own strength? No Way! It is in God's strength. Remember, the Elect of God are totally and completely dependent on Him for everything, including their keeping of God's Commandments, which is good works. God works through them to will and to do of His good pleasure. When God asks us to do something He also gives us the power to do it.

"We are in a world that is opposed to righteousness, or purity of character, and especially to growth in grace. Wherever we look, we see defilement and corruption, deformity and sin. How opposed is all this to the work that must be accomplished in us just previous to receiving the gift of immortality! God's elect must stand untainted amid the corruptions teeming around them in these last days. Their bodies must be made holy, their spirits pure. If this work is to be accomplished, it must be undertaken at once, earnestly and understandingly. The Spirit of God should have perfect control, influencing every action." {Maranatha 119}

Lets look at some of the descriptions in the Bible of God's elect and what they are like:

Isaiah 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." Isaiah 65:9 "And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there." Isaiah 65:22 "They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Matthew 24:31 "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Luke 18:7,8 "And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." Titus 1:1,2 "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" 1 Peter 1:1,2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:"

"Jesus is our example. There are many who dwell with interest upon the period of His public ministry, while they pass unnoticed the teaching of His early years. But it is in His home life that He is the pattern for all children and youth. The Saviour condescended to poverty, that He might teach how closely we in a humble lot may walk with God. He lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father in the common things of life. His work began in consecrating the lowly trade of the craftsmen who toil for their daily bread. He was doing God's service just as much when laboring at the carpenter's bench as when working miracles for the multitude. And every youth who follows Christ's example of faithfulness and obedience in His lowly home may claim those words spoken of Him by the Father through the Holy Spirit, "Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; Mine Elect, in whom My soul delighteth." Isa. 42:1." {The Desire of Ages 74}

Total surrender and submission to God and immersion in the Word of God is essential to becoming part of the elect.