

# God Chose You

## II Thess. 2:13-17

By Mark L. Hatfield

Last night 16 men sat down at their computers for an online football draft for our fantasy league this year. It was our task to choose men who are presently drafted and are actively playing in the National Football League (NFL) in order that we might put together a team of players that would score more points than our opponents throughout the season. I went to Dan's (who has a team that is terrible, I might add) for this event. I called Calvin and spoke with him as another coach for our team "Smash Mouth Dirty South" as we made draft selections. I began thinking about how many guys are left over after the draft that are never selected even though they have been added to the teams in the NFL, for one reason or another, we did not choose certain players for certain reasons.

This leads to my main point for the day. We are all created by God to live on this earth. We all have a part to play in the grand scheme of things. God has called all mankind to be saved and chooses not to refuse anyone who wants to be a part of the team (His church). Unfortunately, some people are called and chosen but they refuse to accept the call or live up to their service to the Lord after being chosen for His purposes.

Imagine God sitting at a computer. He is getting ready to put a check mark next to every name that He intends to have with Him throughout eternity, is your name on that list? Keep in mind that Jesus said, "many are called and few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). What is it that the Lord will use as criteria for selecting or drafting the faithful few?

After many years of playing in the NFL there are only a select few that get to have their name and certain memorabilia rest in Canton Ohio at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. As a matter of fact, did you know that even though thousands of men have played the game only a few hundred have been selected for enshrinement?

Are you going to accept the call from the Lord and will you live up to His choosing you for His service? Consider the following texts:

### II Th 2:13-17

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you** from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

14 It was for this **He called you through our gospel**, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 **So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word {of mouth} or by letter from us.**

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

## **2 Pet 1:8-11**

8 For if **these {qualities} are yours and are increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For **he who lacks these {qualities}** is blind {or} short-sighted, having forgotten {his} purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, **be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you;** for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

## **Rom 8:28-39**

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, **to those who are called** according to {His} purpose.

29 For **those whom He foreknew**, He also predestined {to become} conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and **these whom He predestined**, He also called; and **these whom He called**, He also justified; and **these whom He justified**, He also glorified.

31 **What then shall we say to these things?** If God {is} for us, who {is} against us?

32 **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all**, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33 **Who will bring a charge against God's elect?** God is the one who justifies;

34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 **Who will separate us from the love of Christ?** Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38 **For I am convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **1Thes 1:2-10**

2 **We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention {of you} in our prayers;**

3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

4 **knowing, brethren beloved by God**, {His} choice of you;

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 **You also became imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8 **For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.**

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, {that is} Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

## **2 Tim 2:19-21**

19 **Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."**

20 **Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor.**

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these {things} he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Does the Lord know that you are His? Have you answered His call and accepted that He chose you to receive salvation in Christ? If you have become a part of the Lord's house, are you a vessel of honor, serving His purposes, so that one day you can enjoy eternal glory? If the Lord has done so much to offer you such a place in eternity, do not disappoint Him by being impure and unfaithful in your service. Serve Him in such a way that others even recognize your faith and let the report about you be good. Will other remember you as one of that greats (Heb. 11)? Would you be inducted by those who know of your dedication to the Lord?

Those of us who are here today to partake of the Lord's Supper are to come with pure hearts and hands to eat the bread and drink the cup that reminds us of our purification from sins. Let this time be a motivator to go out and fulfill our service to the Lord each day. Wouldn't it be terrible to serve the Lord half-heartedly all your life only to find out that He doesn't even know your name on the Day of Judgment? Make sure of His calling a choosing you today? God has great things in store for those who are His?