

"Hand Picked"

Sermon Notes by Pastor Stephen Scholes.
Based upon the Book "Living God's Way" by Arthur Wallace.
Sermon delivered on Sunday 29th July 2018.



Scripture Quotations taken from:
The Holy Bible, New International Version (Anglicised Edition)
© 2011 Biblica / Hodder & Stoughton Publishers

CLEVELEYS COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Hand Picked” Sermon Transcript - Page 2 of 7

*“How did you find Christ?” One person once asked.
“I didn’t,” I replied to this person. “He found me.”*

In Salvation, God always makes the first move. He was seeking you before you were seeking Him. In fact it all goes back long before the ‘Seeking / Finding’ process began.

You may think that you chose Christ, but that is only because He chose you first.

We call it the Doctrine of Election

How could God call you before you as a person were born?

Elect you to choose Him yourself to love and serve Him?

No-one lives and serves God without choosing to do so.

Don’t worry, You don’t have to fully understand God’s Election to enjoy it.

You don’t even have to understand how electricity works just to enjoy that.

Quite simply, God has chosen us simply because HE LOVES US!

1: GOD TOOK THE FIRST STEP

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Salvation is not man searching for God. But God reaching down to Man. The Bible teaches, that God chose some men (Election). But He gave all a will to decide and holds them responsible for how they exercise it. You and I are required to believe, but not necessarily to understand.

2: WHEN WERE YOU CHOSEN?

“Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad – in order that God’s purpose in election might

stand: not by works but by him who calls – she was told, 'The older will serve the younger.'"

Romans 9:10-12

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

Ephesians 1:4

Not after you proved yourself. Or even if you have done right or wrong.

3: WHAT WAS THE BASIS OF GOD'S CHOICE?

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

Titus 3:5

"He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginnings of time."

2 Timothy 1:9

Only on the basis of God's mercy. Not that you had done good stuff. God chose you before the foundations of the earth. It was all because of "God's Amazing Grace." Grace, the unmerited favour of God. God's abounding love towards those who are unworthy of it. Something for nothing, for those who don't deserve anything. He chose you, he loved you.

4: YOU WERE A LOVE GIFT

"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

John 6:37

"No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."

John 6:44

You were a gift from the Father to the Son. You came to Jesus. His Father drew you to Him. No-one comes without the drawing. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

5: GOD DIDN'T GET A SHOCK

"... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

1 Peter 1:2

In His foreknowledge God knew all about you when He chose you. Many couples discover later on, discover what they have let themselves in for. Despite your weakness, frailty and sinfulness, God wanted you. You are Hand Picked.

6: LEARN TO ACCEPT YOURSELF

"But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it. "Why did you make me like this?""

Romans 9:20

God chose you, created you to as He wanted you to be and now – He has redeemed you. Don't crave to look like or be like others. You are uniquely chosen and Hand Picked by God and Praise Him for it.

7: THE PRESSURE IS OFF

"Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given."

John 1:16

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

2 Corinthians 12:9

So remember, you no longer need to feel as though, "It all depends on me, have I got what it takes?" Instead it's God who chose me, knowing me better than I know myself. His grace is enough for my needs.

8: GOD HAS A PERFECT PLAN FOR YOU

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

Choice has to do with purpose, the carpenter chooses a tool with a job in mind. God didn't save you and then wonder what to do with you. He chose you for a purpose.

SO SALVATION BEGAN WITH GOD – NOT YOU

He chose you, He loved you.

Now let's look at what He did to express His love to make His choice effective and meaningful.

- > What has God done for you in sending Jesus into the world to be your Saviour?
- > Why did Jesus have to come?
- > Why was the Cross necessary?
- > Why did he have to die?
- > How can we be sure His death and resurrection matters a hoot?

God's act of choosing you could not in itself restore you to Himself. The cause of separation between Him and you had to be removed. He had to find a way of Justifying you while remaining Himself a Just and Holy God.

SO WHAT DID GOD DO?

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless. Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!”

Romans 5:1-9 (Key verse 5:6)

God made man to enjoy fellowship with Him. But sin separated us from Him. **(Genesis 3:8)** Man was powerless to do anything. Only God could deal with the problem.

THE SOLUTION

CLEVELEYS COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Hand Picked” Sermon Transcript - Page 6 of 7

Though God loved you and chose you, he could not disregard your sin. (**Habakkuk 1:13**) Sin always has to be paid for. We owed a debt we could not pay. He paid the price to set us free. How? How did God do that?

BLOOD MUST BE SHED

“Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.”

Exodus 12:3

“The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

John 1:29

For Israel to be redeemed from Egypt, blood was shed. There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. (**Hebrews 9:22**) For the penalty of sin is death. (**Ezekiel 18:4**) That is why Jesus had to suffer and die and save us from our sin and bring us back to God.

WE ARE NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD

Did you notice Justified meant ...

Justification is when God declares you the Sinful Man – Being made Righteous.

Romans 5:1 says you are justified by faith – That is your side of it.

Romans 5:9 says you are justified by His Blood – That is God’s side of it.

All His Righteousness was paid into our Spiritually Bankrupt Current Account.

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

Romans 4:25

The proof that God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus, His Son, to save and Justify you is seen in the fact that God raised Him from the pits of death.

HIS LOVE, YOUR RESPONSE

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

The Cross of Jesus is the supreme act of God’s love.

CLEVELEYS COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Hand Picked” Sermon Transcript - Page 7 of 7

At the Cross God stepped down from being Judge and paid your author's and your debt in full in the blood of Jesus.

That is what Grace is all about

Your response? Found in Philippians 3:7-9:

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.”

In other words:

“Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”