

## The Election

This past Tuesday was election day, the Tuesday following the first Monday in the month of November, in even numbered years. We are given the opportunity to vote for those who are to represent us in Washington and Austin (and locally as well). We take a critical look at the people running for public office and determine who we want to choose to be our voice in the office for which they are running. I learned my lesson a long time ago about speaking about politics in church, so this is not an endorsement of any candidate or political party. What I prefer to write about is the Christian election and how important that process is to all of us.

All throughout the history of mankind, God has made some very important choices. He chose Noah from all of the people on earth to preach to mankind about the sinful state of the world. The reason for God choosing Noah? Genesis 6:9 says that "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God." Sadly, no one heeded his plea to become more like him and serve God and were destroyed because of their lack of faith in God's promises. God chose Abraham to be the person through whom the Messiah would be born. Out of all the people on the face of the earth, God chose Abraham because of the great faith Abraham had in God. Genesis 15:6 says that "Abraham believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness." James, in James 2:23, quoting the preceding verse from Genesis, adds "and he (Abraham) was called God's friend." The Hebrew writer says further that Abraham "was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (Hebrews 11:10) All of these point toward Abraham's character.

Joshua, in Joshua 24:15, gave the people a choice concerning who they would "elect" to be the one they would serve. The candidates? "The gods your fathers served beyond the river," the gods of the Amorites," or the Lord Jehovah. Joshua chose the Lord, and convinced all of those listening to him to choose Him as well.

Throughout the Old Testament, certain people are referred to as the "remnant" those who were chosen by God to see to it that His promises were fulfilled. They (the remnant) remained faithful to God, even when many, many others did not. They cast their ballot for God because they believed He would keep his "campaign promises."

In the New Testament, our choosing God and Him choosing to fulfill His promises in us is called an "election." We are called the "elect" – those chosen by God from all of the people of the earth to believe in Him and His ability to save us. Peter addresses his first letter to: "God's elect...who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ..." That's US. We are God's elect. Further, in I Peter 2:9, Peter calls us "A chosen people...a people belonging to God." Our responsibility is to campaign for Him: "...declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

In 2 Peter 1:10-11, Peter tells us, those that have chosen service to God, those that God has chosen from the world to tell others about Him and His promises:

"...be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

The outcome of the election this past Tuesday is of little importance when compared to the election process Peter tells us about. Listen to God's word, believe He will do what He promises, choose Him. He has already chosen us to represent Him here on this earth. Let's not disappoint Him.