

How may we know that we are God's elect?

Sunday, August 27, 2006

**"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."
1 John 3:14.**

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence* to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Pet. 1:10-11.

*(Diligence. From a word meaning "speed", i.e., by implication, despatch, eagerness, earnestness, carefulness, forwardness, haste.) Give this matter the urgent attention it demands. After all, what can possibly be more important than to know whether or not we are God's elect on our way to Heaven? The idea is to strive mightily to get ahold of some solid, undoubted – objective and subjective – evidence that our "calling and election" is "sure."

Do this under four heads: (1.) Unfeigned, fervent love of the brethren (1 Pet. 1:22; (2.) Unction or anointing from the Holy One – "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things" (1 Jn. 2:20; 2 Cor. 1:20); (3.) Understanding of and joyful acceptance of "the record that God gave of his Son", to wit: the Five Points of Calvinism – election and reprobation (Jn. 16:13; 1 Jn. 5:10&20); and (4.) Unmercifully hated and persecuted of all men – "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake" (Mat. 10:20; Rom. 8:16-17).

Love of the brethren:

This much-neglected doctrine reveals powerful, objective proof of election. See the context of 1 Pet. 1:22, i.e., verses 18-23: First, read verse 22: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." See how unfeigned, fervent love of saints like the members of Westboro Baptist Church is here said to be immediate, tangible, objective evidence of "Being born again." Vs. 22-23. And it is the only such evidence mentioned in this rather full treatment of salvation by and "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." V. 19.

**All mankind either love or hate God's elect
- starting with Cain and Abel - and on this issue hangs
the eternal destiny of each soul.**

“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother (like WBC). And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren (WBC), if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren (WBC). He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother (WBC) abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother (WBC) is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1 Jn. 3:11-16.

And how do we know whether we love the brethren? “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.” 1 Jn. 5:2. And see the context: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of God...For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.” 1 Jn. 5:1&3.

The Unction from the Holy One:

Only God's elect have this Unction from the Holy One - also called “the anointing which ye have received of him”. This Unction facilitates the impartation of divine knowledge of truth as to all matters Scriptural, such that God's elect “know all things...and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” 1 Jn. 2:20-21 & 27. This divides the elect who stay with the church, from the reprobates who leave: “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.” 1 Jn. 2:19-20.

Understanding and joyfully embracing Calvinism: (More later)

The elect are hated of all men and mercilessly persecuted: (More later)

These last two are powerful proof that your calling and election is sure.