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THE ELECTION

By Gordon F. Nelson

"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching THE ELECTION, they are beloved for the fathers sakes." Romans 11:28.

"As touching THE ELECTION." Who is the Apostle Paul referring to? Gentiles are called a "wild olive tree!" Gentiles are wild by nature. Some of the branches from the true olive tree were broken off! Gentiles could not be engrafted into the true olive tree until branches from the true Jewish tree were removed. "Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root (Jesus Christ), but the root thee...The branches (Israel) were broken off, that I might be grafted in." Romans 11:18-19.

THE ELECTION, God's ELECT, always refers to the remnant in Israel. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, LORD, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men (all Jews), who have not bowed the knee to the IMAGE of Baal (ecumenicalism). Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Romans 11:2-5.

Paul is really fully the only person that completely comprehends this doctrine of ELECTION. This one subject completely boggled the brain of John Calvin, probably the most brilliant theologian of any era. If I don't answer all your questions concerning the election, neither could John Calvin.

Paul could rightly make the claim that it was "MY GOSPEL." No one fully fathoms Paul's "espousal doctrine." 2 Corinthians 11:2. Some believe Paul will be the best man at the wedding. Brilliant minds have all stepped up to the batter's box pretending that they have grasped the length, the breadth, the height, and the depth of God's amazing grace. "Unconditional eternal security" is a cheap shot at the unfathomable! Calvin's predestination and election doctrine almost returned the world back into the "Dark Ages." Apparently, every generation has to stand up to Calvinism and fight! We need another George Whitfield to shut the mouths of these modern Calvinists.

Large parts of Romans should be memorized by every Christian. It is the Magna Carta of our faith, whether or not you understand it. Romans was not the first book Paul wrote, but it is by far the most

important. You may read Revelation to get a “blessing” (Revelation 1:3) (by the way, you won’t understand Revelation either, but read it!) You read Romans to acquire “The Key” to unlock the mysteries of the entire Bible. Romans is the binoculars to peer into scripture; similar to why a lawyer peers into the Constitution to interpret law.

It is exciting to begin to read when you know what you are reading. Reminds me of the man of Ethiopia, an eunuch, sitting in his chariot reading Esaias the prophet. *“Then the Spirit said unto Phillip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”* Acts 8:29. Has the Spirit led you to help someone to a deeper knowledge of God’s Word?

This is the ONLY reason for the existence of the *RIVERBANK NEWS*. I spent twenty years in Pentecostal legalism, only because I introduced myself to understanding the Bible by comprehending Matthew, first. Matthew has no binoculars! Through my error, I am able to help you! I have been, for twenty years, where you are at now.

“And Philip ran thither to him and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should GUIDE ME?” Acts 10:30-31. The entire purpose of the *RIVERBANK NEWS* is “to guide you” through the scriptures. Of course, if you are already “a god,” and already understand and comprehend all the mysteries of grace, this tabloid is insignificant to you.

A new convert should never start reading Matthew! You do not read Matthew as a “Key” to understanding! *“Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE! Ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”* Luke 11:52. Romans is that KEY OF KNOWLEDGE!

Jesus said to Peter, *“And I give unto thee THE KEYS of the kingdom of heaven.”* Every promise of God is conditional! Someway, Peter came under the authority of James, the Lord’s own brother. Paul had to withstand him to the face, *“because he was to be blamed.”* Galatians 2:11. Peter, in his own writing admits “My dear brother Paul” writes things “hard to be understood.” Peter, after the ascension, what did he do with those “Keys?” *“I go a fishing.”* He was their leader, so the rest of the disciples joined in, *“We also go with thee.”* John 21:3. Peter was fishing in the nude; *“for he was naked”*. John 21:7. Never again did the disciples follow their chosen captain. Instead they replaced him with James, the Lord’s own brother after the flesh.

James never received any “Keys,” except *“faith without works is dead.”* James 2:20. His doctrine is that of the Assemblies of God and the Nazarene Church.

Martin Luther never believed either the book of James, or Revelation, should have been canonized! He believed the only good Jew was a dead one; yet in such a vessel God used to introduce the doctrine of “justification.” I’m persuaded that Martin Luther, caught up in his fight with “Maryinism,” established grace as a doctrine, rather than a connection by faith “as an engrafted branch” into the vine.

Lutheranism eventually became an organization instead of an organism. No doctrine can save; “*the devils also believe and tremble.*” James 2:19. Only Jesus Christ can save a soul. “*Faith without (faith-) works is dead.*” (Proof of the engraft.) Paul declares, “*Not of works.*” Ephesians 2:9. “*If by grace, then it is no more works.*” Romans 11:6.

Paul said, “*And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...*”

1st, Jesus saw Cephas (Peter)

2nd, the twelve

3rd, seen of 500 brethren

4th, James

5th, then all the Apostles

6th, and “*last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*” 1 Corinthians 15:4-8. James, a convert since the resurrection, was also disqualified! This is James the Less, half-brother of Jesus Christ after the flesh.

Why did Paul say he was “*born out of due time*”? The answer, “unqualified to be an apostle.” He was born too late. He never saw Jesus “after the flesh.” He never heard the Baptist.

The Apostle Paul would never have been given a lot or “straw” “*that he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell.*” Acts 1:25. The chief requirement to being a participant in this drawing of lots was, “*One who companied with us,*” beginning from the baptism of John, until the ascension. One must be ordained to be a witness of the resurrection! Acts 1:22. Paul was disqualified on both counts. He was “*born out of due time.*” 1 Corinthians 15:8.

If it had not been for the Apostle Barnabus, no one would have given this man the “*right hands of fellowship.*” Galatians 2:9. “*For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*” 1 Corinthians 1:26. Luke, the physician, and

Matthew, the ex-tax gatherer for Rome, were probably the most intelligent of this lot of fisherman Jesus chose to be disciples.

Oh, I know God can use a Balaam's ass to speak through. Peter, one of the good old boys, who carried about a wife. *"Have we (Paul and Barnabus) not power to lead about a sister (the other Apostles did), a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?"* 1 Corinthians 9:5. Paul and Barnabus refused to live by the standards of the Assemblies of God. He worked with his own hands and rejected having a "help meet." *"It is good for a man not to touch a woman."* 1 Corinthians 7:1. Why? Preventative medicine: A woman can "touch" the connection of Adam with his God.

Then he had the audacity to say, *"Be ye followers of me!"* 1 Corinthians 11:1. *"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a WISE MASTER BUILDER (Gk.- architect), I have laid the foundation."* 1 Corinthians 3:10.

Do you think God entrusted "the foundation" to a bunch of ignorant fishermen? No wonder they all became followers of James, the Less! This James is a type of the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. If you will simply read Acts 21:18-28, you will see the difference in their gospel upon this confrontation, *"Thou seest, brother (Paul), how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law."* Acts 21:20.

Religion, by its very nature, must resort to the law! Brother William Branham never graduated from grammar school. Brother Branham, the humblest man I ever met, was not an intellectual like the Great Apostle. It is stupid to follow any man on earth when you are implored by the "chiefest of the Apostles," *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."* 1 Corinthians 11:1 Do not join a William Branham cult as a result of my honoring a humble servant of God. These are all men! Brother William Branham, a Pentecostal, never grasped the authority of "Pauline Truth." Neither did the apostles. Galatians 1:11 - 2:9. He called it *"MY GOSPEL."* It really required an intellectual to explain it.

Dallas Theological Seminary was founded in 1924. Throughout its long history it has had a tremendous influence upon those known as evangelicals. But it has never held nor taught the important truths of the Bible which command separation from false teachers and disobedient brethren. On several occasions in past years, a few faculty members have made an effort to rectify this theological and positional deficiency, but without success. As a result, the influence and teachings of the several thousand men and women who are graduates of Dallas have indoctrinated millions of Christians into the principles of unbiblical compromise rather than biblical separation.

In the December 1995 issue of Connection Extra (Topics of Interest to Dallas Theological Seminary Alumni), the question was asked: “What about Dallas Theological Seminary and the Promise Keepers?” The answer was given in three brief, but very revealing, sections. What follows is a full, unabridged copy of their answers, and after each section our scriptural analysis of those answers. Since the position of Dallas Theological Seminary regarding Promise Keepers is held by so many uninformed or misinformed believers, we trust this report will be a spiritual eye-opener to God’s people everywhere. The following introduction to the Dallas Theological Seminary statement is, in itself, very revealing and demonstrates the confusion caused by mixing truth with error. We quote:

What About Dallas Theological Seminary and the Promise Keepers Ministry?

For the past several years the ministry of Promise Keepers has experienced rapid numerical growth and broad public attention. Its outreach has spiritually impacted the lives of many men, causing some to call it a “revival-like movement.” A few others however, are expressing concerns and voicing criticisms. Although Dallas Seminary has no official ties to Promise Keepers, some of our faculty and alumni have participated in their public meetings. One of our distinguished professors, Dr. Howard Hendricks, also serves on the Promise Keepers board. In light of the questions raised by a few of our alumni and friends, the Seminary wishes to respond as follows:

The first two sentences are true. Promise Keepers is a rapidly growing movement and some do call it a “revival-like movement.” And, it is good to know that some Dallas alumni have expressed concern, even if only “a few” have done so. However, the next sentences reveal Dallas Seminary’s sad duplicity. While it is true that they have “no official ties” to Promise Keepers, they seek to minimize their unofficial endorsement by saying, “Some of our faculty and alumni have participated in their public meetings.” In the next sentence, they admit that one of their distinguished professors, Dr. Howard Hendricks serves on the Promise Keepers board. Furthermore, they did not mention the fact that the new president of Dallas Seminary, Dr. Charles Swindoll, is very prominent in the promotion of and participation in the Promise Keepers movement and rallies. What better endorsement could they give to a movement which is ecumenical in its goals and unscriptural in its fellowships? Dr. Swindoll and the denomination of which he is a member repudiates the position of biblical separation and is therefore disobedient to the plain teaching of the Bible...

...In these crisis times, the compromised positions of both Promise Keepers and Dallas Seminary pose grave problems to those who are following their unscriptural programs and positions, having become enamored with their apparent successes and acceptance by the majority of believers.

The need for spiritual discernment has never been greater. Hebrews 5:12-14. The time for absolute fidelity to the Word of God rather than the ideas of men is now. Acts 5:29. The need to practice biblical separation from false teachers, disobedient brethren and worldliness is paramount. Let us always speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), but let us never remain silent when “truth is fallen in the street.” Isaiah 59:14. Dallas Theological Seminary believes Promise Keepers is worthy of their pursuit and support. The question is, “*What does God say?*” 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.