2 Peter

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Preacher: Dawson, Herbert (1890-1969)

[0:00] As the Lord shall be pleased to help me, I shall call your attention to a subject you will find in the second epistle of Peter, chapter 1 and verse 10.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

Chapter 1, the second epistle of Peter, verse 10.

This is a word which all sinners born again, as they journey on through life, desire divine aid to reduce it to practice.

And it may be some in this assembly would be glad beyond words to describe.

[1:23] If you could feel before God with whom you have to do, that your election be sure.

However, I want the Lord to help me to look at the subject from three or four viewpoints of it.

And it might be helpful if I look at some words in the text which do need grace to understand and also to reduce them to practice.

I might look at the word sure. And it may be you will be surprised if I tell you that this word sure, making your calling and election sure, is not to do with your election before God.

It is to do with you making it manifest before man. Whose you are and whom you serve.

[2:47] If it is your mercy to be numbered with God's elect, it is sure already. Ordained to life eternal before the world was built or time was born.

Ordained to life eternal before the world. And you had to be born into the world to be born again. Because your election was sure in eternal purposes. If you follow the chapter through, you will find the apostle Peter is stressing bringing forth fruit.

A barren tree that bears no fruit, brings no great glory to its root. When on the bough rich fruit we see, it is then we cry a goodly tree.

And I just remind you of the context. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue.

And to virtue, knowledge. And to knowledge, temperance. And to temperance, patience. And to patience, godliness.

[4:05] And to godliness, brotherly kindness. And to brotherly kindness, charity. If these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren, margin, idle, or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And that leads up to this subject. Wherefore, the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure.

Wherever you reside, let your life and acts express the holy gospel you profess. That men may take knowledge of you.

That you have been with Jesus. Oh, it is a great word, sure. And you do want something that is sure.

For you and I are poor sinners with never dying souls. Hastening through a time state. Into one that is eternal. Either to be lost or saved.

[5:24] And you want something in your soul's experience. That has got the hallmark of sure. And then there is this word.

And it is in the word of God. And inspired. By the Holy Spirit to be recorded there. Wherefore, the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure.

Diligence is a word that you need to be brought into a proper frame of mind. To hear about it as an exhortation.

The soul of the diligent should be made fat. There is to be diligence.

In all the appointed means of grace. God has set up. Whereby poor sinners. In giving diligence.

[6:32] Doing business in heaven's marketplace. May come. Into this word. How the epistle ends.

I am afraid you and I know but very little about it. But grow in grace. And in the knowledge of our Lord. And Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now. And forever. Amen. There is to be diligence in our everyday life.

To make manifest. That we are on the Lord's side. That others may discern.

There is a difference. Between them. And us. And the difference is made. By. Grace.

[7:29] Who maketh thee to differ from another. And what is thou. That thou dost not. Receive. You must admit.

Let your consciences tell you. That. Too often. You have been brought in guilty before God. Of being slack.

In following on. To know the Lord. And you know. Too well. When prayer is a burden and task. No wonder I little receive.

O Lord make me willing to ask. Since thou art so ready. To give. This word diligence. Fits in there. It means.

Let us hold fast. The profession of our faith. Without wavering. For he is faithful. That. Promised. And then.

[8:30] Coming down to. What I want especially. To make plain. Wherefore. There are the brethren. Give diligence. To make. Your calling.

And election. Sure. And now. Remember. Election. Is the root. Calling.

Is. The fruit. And this word. Election. Sometimes. Refers to. The doctrine of it. Sometimes.

It refers to. The people. Who make up. God's elect. You find that. Set forth. In the. Epistle to the.

Romans. A very solemn. Scripture. But the election. Hath obtained it. And the rest.

[9:29] Were blinded. Margin reading. Hardened. What is it. The election. Hath obtained. Oh.

They. Have obtained. Some religion. That God. Is the. Author of. Which would do. To live by. And at the last.

To. Die by. Oh. They have. Obtained. Some. Evidence. That God. Has remembered. Them. With the favor.

That he bears. To. His. People. And. That they are numbered. With them. Living. And dying. The election.

Hath obtained it. And the rest. Were blinded. And now. You might read that scripture. Cursorily. And turn the pages over.

[10:25] And go on your way. And think. How sad it seems. And you might have hard thoughts of God. That there should be. A number which no man.

Can number. Making up the election. And ordained to life eternal. And all the rest. Were blinded.

Yes. But what saith the scriptures. You are not to think your own thoughts about it. In the word of God. It will tell you. What is the.

Truth. Of. The matter. And. We should compare scripture. With scripture. And now the apostle Paul.

Told the Corinthians. But if our gospel be hid. It is hid to them. That are lost. In whom.

[11:22] The God of this world. Hath blinded. The minds of them. Which believe not. Lest the light of the glorious. Gospel of Christ.

Who is the image of God. Should shine. Unto them. You see. You cannot lay that. At God's door. That all the rest. Are blinded.

It is to do. With the great adversary. The enemy of God. And godliness. Called in the text. A little g-god.

The God of this world. Hath blinded the minds of them. Which believe not. And there is a scripture. Which I will.

Search out. To read to you. Which I think. Needs to be more understood. Good. Than it is. When you begin to. Dwell on.

[12:19] The doctrines. Of grace. For God so loved the world. That he gave his only begotten son.

That whose ever believeth in him. Should not perish. But have everlasting life. Listen. For God sent not his son.

Into the world. To condemn the world. But that. The world through him. Might be. Saved. He that believeth on him.

Is not condemned. But he that believeth not. Is condemned already. Because he hath not believed. In the name of the only begotten.

Son. Of God. Do you see. The onus. Is on the sinner's head. He hath not believed. In the name of the only begotten.

[13:20] Son. Of God. And this is the condemnation. That light is come into the world. And men love darkness. Rather than light. Because their deeds were evil.

For everyone that doeth evil. Hateth the light. Neither cometh to the light. Lest his deeds should be. Reproved. Margin. Discovered.

Here is an evidence. That you. Have a part and lot. In the election. If you are concerned. To possess it. But.

He that doeth truth. Cometh to the light. That his deeds may be made manifest. That they are wrought in. God.

And looking at this. Word election. As setting forth. That number. Which no man can number. Who will be saved.

[14:22] With an everlasting salvation. There are some. Very encouraging characteristics. To set forth.

The election. The election. In the sacred pages. And. I will name just. A few. To help you. And the Lord grant it might.

Be a help. To you. That you might. Feel that. You have a part. And a lot. Among the people. Of. God. Mind.

And now. The word of God says. They that are. After the flesh. Do mind the things of the flesh. But they that are after the spirit.

Do mind. The things of the spirit. And now. What do you mind? Let your conscience. Tell you the truth. As to what is your bent of mind.

[15:21] As you live your. Everyday life. Are you just in the world. And of it. And atonement. And with no concern whatever.

To be otherwise. Than as. You were born. And living after the flesh. The things of the flesh. Are all your.

Concerns on this side of the God. The grave. And to do with time. And no thought. Well enough. Where shall I spend. Eternity. And never a thought.

To be made ready. To enter. Therein. You were on the wrong side. Of the line. As yet. God in his mercy. May make you manifest.

Ere you die. That you're on the other side. Of the line. But if you were living. As you were born. In the world. And of it. As yet.

You give no evidence. Of belonging to the election. Oh but. They that are after the spirit.

Do mind the things of the spirit.

The spirit. And now it may be. Some of you. Are troubled. And have many searchings of heart. Because. You cannot.

Gather together. Many evidences. Such as you would like to do. That you are. Born again. And yet.

You can appeal to God. With whom you have to do. That you are after the spirit. The things of. The spirit. And you do see.

His divine aid. To lead you. Into. The truth. Of which. He is the glorious. Author. And. How often you have prayed.

[17:16] Assure my conscience. Of her part. In the redeemer's blood. And bear the witness. With my heart. That I am. Born. Of. God.

You are after the spirit. Then that means. The spirit. Has been after you. Otherwise. You would still be living. On the opposite side.

Of the line of demarcation. After the flesh. The things of the flesh. Here you are. With an aching void. Which the world. Cannot fill. And although you cannot.

Say much as yet. About the dealings. Of God. With you. To give chapter. In verse. For the dealings. Yet. You are after the spirit. The things of.

The spirit. And what does the scripture. Say about you. Blessed are they. Which do. Hunger. And thirst. After. Righteousness.

[18:13] For. They shall be filled. And there is another scripture. You shall know the meaning of. To the joy and rejoicing. Of your heart.

Sooner or later. God grant it may be. Sooner. The spirit itself. Beareth witness. With our spirit. That we are.

The children. Of God. God. Then there is. Another evidence. A sure evidence. And there the apostle Paul.

Helps us. In how he wrote. To the. Thessalonians. Knowing. Brethren. Beloved. Your election of God.

For our gospel. Came. Not unto you. In word. Only. But also. In power. And in the holy ghost.

[19:10] And in much assurance. And now. Most of you. If not all. Have been born. Under the gospel. You have been brought up.

Under the gospel. And now. Can it be said. Of you. Thank God. It can be said. Of many of you. Blessed are your ears.

For they. Hear. And when you come. Up to worship. God. In your heart. There is a. Deep down. Concern.

I would hear. What God. The Lord. Will say. And you want to hear. The gospel. Not to hear. This preacher. Or that. And be a sermon.

Taster. But you want. Something for. Your soul. I seek. And hope. To find. A portion. For. My soul.

[20:06] And that brings you. Into this category. In that day. Shall the deaf. Hear the words.

Of. The book. You come up. To hear the words. Of. The book. And what. He. Whose book it is. The spirit of God.

Will make known to you. As to your interest. In. The things. Of. God. Then. A miracle. Has been wrought. For you.

The ears. Of the deaf. Shall be. Unstopped. And that brings you. Back to what. I've already. Quoted. Blessed are your ears.

For they. Hear. There are those. Often. In assemblies. Where the gospel. Is being preached. By men ordained. Of God. To preach it.

[21:02] But. The only word. They're listening. For is the amen. That concludes. The sermon. And lets them go out. Into the world. Where they.

Feel more at home. Than they do. In. Listening to the gospel. Preached. Although. It may be. That.

They do not. Remember. Or ponder in their heart. That they might be hearing. The gospel. One sabbath day. And the next sabbath day.

Be laid in their grave. And how. If not. Possessing an ear. To hear the gospel. For your soul's peace. And profit.

You cannot be well laid. In the grave. You will be. Without God. And. Without. Without. Hope. Therefore.

[21:58] It is a wonderful mercy. If you are here. To hear what God the Lord. Will say to you. And to get some good. Unto the gospel.

Being preached. And that you might. Feel like the psalmist. When he said. Blessed is the people. That know. The joyful sound.

They shall walk. O Lord. In. The light of. Thy countenance. I often think. Of one of our hymn writers. What a divine.

Harmonious. Sound. The gospel trumpet. Gives. No music. Can with it. Compare. Listen. The soul that knows it.

Lives. And he lives. No more to die. He possesses. Life eternal. He belongs.

[22:54] To the election. He knows. The gospel. Of the grace. Of God. Not only. In the letter of it. In word. Only. But he knows.

The power of it. What happiness. You have felt. Some of you. Along life's way. In hearing. The gospel. Preached. When the power of God.

Has made it. Effectual. In your own. Souls. Experience. When you have said. The watchmen. That go about the city. They found me.

Lord. It is. Good for us. To be. Here. And now. That is a sure evidence. Of you being numbered. With the.

Election. Of you being loved. And then there is another evidence, equally sure. Godly John says, he that loveth is born of God.

[23:53] And now that is a test for you, dear friends. You come and listen to the gospel. Do you love it? You did receive the love of the truth, Paul said to the Thessalonians.

Have you received it? You may listen to the truth and not love it. But if you love it, it is your concern in everyday life to live it.

Because this is the real meaning of this scripture. Hold up the sacred word and feed thereon and grow. Go on to seek to know the Lord and practice what you know.

This love is a blessed principle which a man cannot receive except it be given him from heaven. He that loveth is born of God.

And that means love to the truth in listening to it. Love to those who preach the truth. There is a scripture like this.

[25:09] A lover of good men. And you have sometimes hoped in God on another scripture. We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.

Love is the golden chain that binds the favored souls above. And he is a hair of heaven who finds his bosom glow with love.

And this love brings you up to the house of prayer with willing feet. And yet with this concern.

What is the house to me unless the master I can see? And remember that scripture I read to you. He that doeth truth cometh to the light.

That his deeds may be made manifest. That they are wrought in God. You want to have sure work in your soul's experience. That what you humbly hope.

[26:16] You have known and felt therein of the things of God. God is indeed of God. And it will do to live by. And at the last to die by.

And therefore you come to the light. And if you should be searched and tried. And sometimes you seem to be more cut down than you are comforted.

You will still come again to the light. Because it is such a momentous matter. It is a matter of eternal moment. How stands the case my soul with thee?

For heaven are thy credentials clear. Oh you do want clear credentials. Wherefore the rather brethren.

Give diligence to make your calling. And election sure. And now I will look at another word.

[27:19] And that is your calling. And you read in the Hebrews. Partakers of the heavenly calling.

There is a general call. Whereby people gather under the gospel. But this is a special call. A call that is known and felt.

Only by those who are numbered with the election. And there are characteristics. In this calling. It is said to be a heavenly calling.

And that brings us to consider. That if you and I are going to heaven. I do hope we are.

I would it could be of God that we all could be found there at last. But if you and I are going to heaven. Then our religion must come from heaven to take us there. You will never gather any religion.

[28:24] From any earthly source whatever. That would take you to heaven. God indeed must be the author of it.

Because there is this scripture. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. And that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

Your calling. And now. It is a calling from death. Unto life. Is that word the truth.

About you. And about me. That you read. In the Ephesians. And you. Hath he quickened.

Who were dead. In trespasses and sins. It is a calling from. Death. Unto.

[29:22] Life. Something happens. You may not be able to go. Into many details. About how it happened. Yet.

It has happened. And you find in your heart. What you never found there before. You never dreamed about finding it.

But then. It came. It came from heaven. And. What happened. The eyes of the blind were opened.

You were made alive. Alive to the solemn truth. That you were. A poor sinner. Undeserving. Hell deserving.

And. That. Unless. Unless God in his mercy. Remembered you. With the favor. He bears to his people. You would be.

[30:21] Lost. All that word. Lost. Is indelible. When he. The spirit of truth. Is come. He shall convince the world.

Of. Sin. Him. And. Being called. From death. Unto life. I say. You were brought to a point. Like this. If my soul is sent to hell.

Thy righteous law. Approves it. Well. But the spirit of God. Will not leave you there. Yet.

Save a trembling sinner. Lord. Whose soul. Still hovering. Round thy word. Would light upon. Some promise. There. Some sure support.

Against. Despair. You were made alive. Unto God. You are now. As I said. At the outset. Concerned. To be after the spirit.

[31:17] The things of the spirit. You have this feeling. With the hymn writer. Spirit of truth. Come down. Reveal. The things.

Of. God. You have now. An aching void. Which the world. Cannot. Fill. And you have this feeling. I hunger now.

For heavenly food. And my poor soul. Cries out. For God. A calling. From death. Unto.

Life. It is also. A calling. From darkness. To light. As Peter himself.

Tells us. In. His other epistle. A peculiar people. That you should.

[32:09] Show forth. The praises of him. Who hath called you. Out of darkness. Into his marvelous. Light. Light. You were one time.

Darkness. But now. Are ye light. In the Lord. God. I go back. To my teenage life. When.

I first. Gave out a hymn. Preparatory. To speaking. In prayer. At our prayer meeting. Where I was. Made a member. And I've never.

Forgotten it. Saviour of sinners. Deign. To shine on this. Benighted soul. Of mine. Oh. Show my wandering feet.

The way. That leads to realms. Of endless day. And that is. What you feel like. When you are translated. From the kingdom.

[33:08] Of darkness. Into. The marvelous light. Of. The gospel. Give diligence.

To make your calling. Sure. And now. It is. Also. A calling. From. Slavery. To service.

As you were born. So you live. The carnal mind. Is enmity against God. Is not subject. To the law of God.

Neither indeed. Can be. And. Sin is the element. In which. You live. And move. Until that great miracle. Is wrought.

Within you. And you are born again. Then. You come into the service. Of another master. Ye serve. The Lord.

[34:07] Christ. And. He will give you. A niche to fill. He will ordain. For you. A sphere. Of usefulness. Where.

You shall serve. The Lord. In accordance. With what is. Will is. That you should be. And. Do. We serve. The Lord.

Christ. Christ. And so. This calling. Is from. Sin's. Slavery. To serve. The Lord. Christ. It might be said.

It is a calling. From. Enmity. To God. To love. I have already. Hinted. At that. But. Referring again.

The natural man. Receiveth not. The things. Of the spirit. Of. God. There is. An integrated. Enmity.

[35:03] In our makeup. As we are born. And. Man's attitude. Is. We will not have this man. To reign over us. Depart from us.

We desire not. The knowledge of thee. Or. Thy. Ways. But. When. You were made manifest. As being numbered.

With the election. When you were quickened. Into life. Divine. You find. That enmity to God. Dying down. And down.

And down. And you ask him. To keep it. Under control. That what you are by nature. May not. Churn you up. With conflicting.

Emotions. And. Mitigate. Your. Profession of the.

[36:00] Name of Jesus. Which you. Will have made. What you are by nature. Makes a great deal. Of mischief. With you. Following on. To know. The Lord.

And then. With this calling. Give diligence. To make you a calling. And election. Sure. It is a calling.

Not only from. Enmity. To love. It is a calling. It is a calling. To suffer. The word of God.

Is very plain. He that taketh not up his cross. And followeth after me. Cannot be my. Disciple. People. And you will find.

In your calling. If you are. Numbered. With the election. God has ordained. For you. A cross. You may not. Always have agreed. With God. In what the choice.

[36:58] Of your cross. Is. But you will find. You will gain. No ground. Whatever. In growing. In grace. Until you do. Agree with it. And say.

It is the Lord. Enthroned in light. Whose claims. Are all divine. Who has an undisputed right. To govern me. And mine. You come to this.

It is the Lord. Let him do. What seemeth him. Good. But. You cannot escape. Suffering. If. You would make manifest.

Your calling. And. Election. Sure. We must. Through much. Tribulation. Enter into. The kingdom.

Of. God. Called to suffer. And yet. There is a word. Which is very helpful.

[37:56] In this. Epistle. Of. Peters. Where he says. Wherefore. Let them that suffer. According to the will of God. Commit the keeping of their souls to him.

In well doing. As unto a faithful. Creator. Going back to being after the spirit. Now when. Suffering comes into your life.

And you can recognize it to be the will of God. God. And you know it has not come by chance. Rapazard. Your great concern will be.

To get good for your soul. As that suffering is overruled. And sanctified. To your soul's profit. And. Peace.

You are called. To be exercised unto godliness. Yes. Like that. But I will look at the subject from another viewpoint. Give diligence to make your calling.

[39:03] Sure. Now. In this calling. I've given you some characteristics. Of the nature of it. But now. What are these people.

Making up the election. Called. To. As they journey on through life. You are called to live. A life of separation from the world.

Oh that. Is an absolute. Essential. To be made manifest. As one of the. Election. The savior said.

They are not of the world. Even as I am. Not of. The world. Separation from the world. Is a very great evidence.

You feel it. Within. The spirit of the world. As you go about in it. Vitiates. Your own spirit. And sometimes.

[40:02] You are brought in guilty. Before God. And brought low. In. Being entangled in the world. And you. Like the woman in the gospel. You were brought low.

By. The infirmities. You were the subject of. And can in no wise. Lift yourself up. But there must be. Separation.

From. The world. Choosing rather. To suffer affliction. With the people of God. Than to enjoy. The pleasures of sin. For. A. Season.

Sin. And then. The election. Are called. To live a life. Of dependence. And that goes against.

What you are. By nature. Man. By nature. Would. If he could. Live independent. Of God. Altogether. But. The election.

[40:59] Sinners. Taught of God. They. Are glad to live. Like the apostle Paul said. The life I now live. I live by faith.

Upon the son of God. Who loved me. And gave himself. From me. A life of. Dependence. In everything. By prayer. And supplication.

With thanksgiving. Let your request. Be made known. Unto. God. And then. This call in.

Is to live. A life of. Faith. As you read. In that. Beautiful chapter. Eleven. In the. Hebrews. Epistle. These all. Died in faith.

But the. Chapter. Enumerates. How they lived. By faith. And without. Faith. It is impossible. To please him. For he. That cometh.

[41:54] To God. Must believe. That he is. And that he is. A rewarder. Of all them. That diligently. Seek him. A life of faith.

And what is a life of faith? One scripture will help you. Trust in him. At all times. Ye people.

Pour out your hearts. Before him. God. Is. A refuge. For us. And then. This calling. Means.

Not only a life of faith. But a life of hope. All through the wilderness below. Good hope. Expects. More good to know.

And thus. Is kept alive. The soul. It is also. A life of. Communion. With God. And that is a wonderful favor.

[42:50] When you can enter into it. I will commune with you. From above. The mercy. Seat. But I must tell you this.

As I come towards the amen. Your calling. Will. Lead you to live a life. Wherein you experience.

Much conflict. You will enter into. What the apostle Paul declares. In the epistle to the Romans. The good that I would.

I do not. The evil that I would not. That alas. I do. I would do good. But evil. Is present. With me. Deep down in your heart.

You want to have matters right. Between. Your soul. And God. But you often. Have to confess. I would do good. But evil is present.

[43:47] With me. And you feel. As Paul says. O wretched man. That I am. Who shall deliver me. From. The body. Of. This death. I thank God.

Through Jesus Christ. Our Lord. Oh. There is. Help to be had. And hope in God. For you. In giving diligence. To make your calling.

And election. Sure. And you remember. What Paul says. About it. Fight the good fight. Of faith. Lay hold upon. Eternal life.

We. Wrestle not. Against flesh and blood. But against. Principalities. Against powers. Against. Spiritual wickedness. In.

High. Places. And also. Here you see. Diligence. Is emphasized. In each illustration. The Holy Spirit. Uses. Of a fight.

[44:43] And a wrestling. And then. Let us run. With patience. The race that is set. Before us. Looking. Unto Jesus. Looking.

Up. All beside. As it is. In the. Original. Wherefore. The rather. Brethren. Give diligence. To make. Your calling.

And your. Election. Sure. And what a great. Concern it is. When all is said. And done. And

Pause my soul. And ask the question. Aren't thou ready. To meet God. Am I made a real. Christian. Washed in the.

Redeemer's blood. Have I union. With the church's. Living head. I've no time.

[45:38] To take up. The other word. I wanted to say. A little upon. Wherefore. The rather. Brethren. He that is joined.

To the Lord. Is one spirit. All who are taught. Of God. Realize that unity. Of the spirit. All who belong.

To the election. Wherever they may be. As they meet each other. And the things of God. Are. Brought up. And their conversation.

Is helpful. And profitable. Day. Fall. Together. In a wonderful. Oneness. And they flow.

To the goodness. Of God. In their conversation. And their. Relationship. Among the brethren. Is made manifest. For time. And for.

[46:33] Eternity. Too. They are one. In their aims. Because their. Great aim. Is to have matters. Made right. Between their soul. And God.

They are one. In their concern. To win Christ. And be found. In him. They are one. In their. Desires. They all agree.

Compared. Compared. With Christ. In all. Beside. No comeliness. I see. The one thing. Needful. Dearest Lord. Is to be one. With thee.

And they are one. In their sorrows. In. How they mourn. How far short. They come. In all that they would be. And would do.

In living the life. Of. The righteous. And they are one. In their joys. Because. Their joy. Consists in this. Then were thee.

[47:28] Disciples glad. When. They saw. The Lord. And that is their concern. We would see. Jesus. And see in him.

All. Our salvation. And all. Our. Desire. Wherefore. The rather. Brethren. Give diligence.

To make your calling. And election. Sure. For if ye do. These things. Ye shall never fall. And look at the end.

Of the road. When you reach it. For so. An entrance. Shall be ministered. Unto you. Abundantly. Into the everlasting.

Kingdom. Of our Lord. And Savior. Jesus. Christ. The Lord. Help you. To ponder these things. To purpose. And bless you.

[48:24] Amen. Amen.