

11. Church Age believers are classified as a “royal priesthood” forming a “holy nation.” The real estate they occupy is a Client Nation.
12. These concepts are directed by Peter to “aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” in his introductory verse of 1 Peter.
13. We will emphasize those who make up the Pivot in a Client Nation in 1 Peter 2:4–5 and verse 9.

1 Peter 2:4 - And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, (NASB)

1. Under the doctrine of “unlimited atonement” all members of the human race are *potentially* elected to salvation.
2. Election occurred by divine decree in eternity past as is noted in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 compared with 1 Peter 1:2. The key passage is:

Ephesians 1:4 - He [God] chose [aorist middle indicative of ἐκλέγω (*eklégō*): elected] us in Him [Christ] before the foundation [creation] of the world [eternity past],

3. The aorist tense of *eklégō* is gnomic which indicates an action that is axiomatic. It describes something that is an absolute event. The act is viewed in its entirety but regarded from the viewpoint of existing results. God elected us in eternity past.
4. The verse confirms that God chose us; we did not choose Him. In that sphere of divine influence is found the doctrine of grace. Nothing depends on us; everything depends on Him and His integrity.
5. The middle voice indicates that God acts toward participating in the outcome. The direct middle voice stresses the action more intimately to the subject.

6. The indicative mood stresses the reality that God elected us for Himself. "Us" refers to all believers who are said to be "in Him," a reflexive pronoun referring to Jesus Christ.
7. If we are "in Him," then the doctrinal principle is that of positional truth, our union with Christ providing for us top circle assets.
8. The key word in the verse is *eklégō*, translated "chosen," but it makes reference to the doctrine of election.
9. Election and unlimited atonement are related in the sense that although election is available to all, only those who respond to the gospel of Christ through faith alone are saved.
10. In other words, election is made available to all, but only appropriated to those who are saved. This is brought out in:

2 Timothy 2:10 - For this reason I endure all things [**persecutions & sufferings**] for the sake of those who are chosen [ἐκλέγω (*eklégō*): the elect], so that [ἵνα (*hína*): introduces a purpose clause: "in order that"] they also may obtain the salvation [σωτηρία (*sōtēría*): deliverance] which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

11. Paul was under tremendous pressure from the Dark Side, but he endures the challenges so that he may teach believers how to grow in grace.
12. The verse translated into English misses the meaning in the Greek context with regard to the word "salvation" which in all cases refers to "deliverance from danger." Context determines what that danger is.
13. When referring to saving faith, then the danger avoided is the lake of fire. Second Timothy is a pastoral epistle. He is to communicate these principles to his parishioners.

14. In context, Paul illustrates those who study under Timothy as athletes who train in accordance with the rules.
15. Bible students must learn the Word of God in order to apply its principles according to its guidance.
16. Paul declares that in order to teach the Word he has suffered hardships including incarceration as a criminal.
17. He goes on to reveal that he endures these hardships so they might be delivered from ignorance into knowledge of doctrine.
18. If they pursue truth and make the advance it will result in “eternal glory” which makes reference to the evaluation tribunal and the Nike Awards.
19. Only the elect have the spiritual assets to make this advance. Thus, election consummated at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone enables the believer to make the advance to the sophisticated spiritual life.
20. Those who placed their faith in Christ were among the elect that were known to God in eternity past.
21. Several biblical doctrines enable the believer to understand Ephesians 1:4:
 1. The doctrine of omniscience is divine knowledge of all things both actual and potential.
 2. All divine decisions are based on eternal wisdom and omniscience which knows all the facts.
 3. If God decrees to elect those who place their personal faith in the gospel of Christ for salvation, then He also knows the names of those who make that choice.

4. These are the ones that He elected in eternity past. He did not randomly single them out to be among the elect. He singled them out because they were the ones who responded positively to His provision of Jesus Christ for salvation.
5. Therefore to understand election one must also understand divine omniscience: Go knew those who would believe and decreed it to be so.
6. God's omniscience, plus human volition, plus the divine decree to elect those who freely believe, equals election.
7. The purpose of election is that the believer might utilize his assets to advance to spiritual maturity and function under the royal family honor code:

Ephesians 4:1 - I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of your station in life, for which station you have been elected,
v. 2 - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.

8. Possession of eternal life is a combination of common and efficacious grace. We are selected at physical birth; we are elected at spiritual birth.
9. Because of omniscience and the divine decree, God is able to provide for us in eternity past all that is necessary to fulfill our purpose in life.