

John 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Analysis

Jesus declares 'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you' (ouch hymeis me exelexasthe all' ego exelexamen hymas). This asserts divine initiative - salvation begins with God's elective choice, not human decision. The verb eklego means to select, to choose out. Jesus then states His purpose: 'and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit' (kai etheka hymas hina hymeis hypagete kai karpon pherete). The verb tithemi (ordained/appointed) indicates authoritative commissioning. Believers are chosen for mission - to go and bear fruit. The fruit's permanence follows: 'and that your fruit should remain' (kai ho karpos hymon mene). The verb meno again - fruitfulness that endures. The promise concludes: 'that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you' (hina ho ti an aitesete ton patera en to onomati mou do hymin). Fruitful mission is supported by answered prayer.

Historical Context

Jesus' assertion of divine election contradicted rabbinic model where students chose their rabbi. Jesus chose His disciples (Mark 3:13), reversing normal pattern. Early church understood conversion as divine calling - God draws people to Christ (John 6:44). Augustine's theology emphasized that grace precedes and enables response - humans love God because He first loved them. Pelagian controversy

centered on divine initiative versus human autonomy. Reformation theology developed doctrines of election and predestination based on passages like this. Arminian theology reinterpreted election as corporate (God chooses the church) or based on foreseen faith. The verse's emphasis on fruit-bearing and mission reminds that election is not for privilege but purpose - chosen to go and bear fruit. Modern debate continues about election's nature, but Jesus' emphasis is clear: salvation originates in divine choice, not human merit.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' declaration 'I have chosen you' shape our understanding of salvation's origin and human responsibility?
2. What is the relationship between being chosen, being ordained to bear fruit, and having prayer answered?

Interlinear Text

οὐχ ὑμεῖς με ἐξελεξάμην ἀλλ' ἐγὼ ἐξελεξάμην ὑμᾶς

not Ye me chosen but I chosen you
G3756 G5210 G3165 G1586 G235 G1473 G1586 G5209

καὶ ἔθηκα ὑμᾶς ἵνα ὑμεῖς ὑπάγητε καὶ καρπὸς

and ordained you that Ye should go and fruit
G2532 G5087 G5209 G2443 G5210 G5217 G2532 G2590

φέρητε καὶ ὁ καρπὸς ὑμῶν μένη ἵνα ὅ τι

bring forth and G3588 fruit that your should remain that G3739 G5100
G5342 G2532 G2590 G5216 G3306 G2443

Ἄν αἰτήσητε τὸν πατέρα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί μου

whatsoever ye shall ask G3588 of the Father in G3588 name my
G302 G154 G3962 G1722 G3686 G3450

δῶ ὑμῖν

he may give it you
G1325 G5213

Additional Cross-References

John 15:19 (Parallel theme): If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Ephesians 2:10 (Parallel theme): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 John 4:19 (Parallel theme): We love him, because he first loved us.

Luke 6:13 (Parallel theme): And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

2 Timothy 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Galatians 1:15 (Parallel theme): But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Acts 22:14 (Parallel theme): And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

1 Peter 3:15 (Parallel theme): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

John 13:18 (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 6:70 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

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