

Who Are The Elect?

By Van Yandell

Romans 8: 30 "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

Standing in a line to board a ferry in Southampton, England, I overheard a man say "He's in the q." At that point I had spent enough time in the United Kingdom to know sometimes the British use words unlike we use in the U.S., not that one was right and the other wrong, just different. The queue actually meant in American English, the line.

The British also use the term "fort-night" which means two weeks. In the U.K. a chip is called a crisp and a biscuit is a cookie. A solicitor in America is a salesperson, while in England one is a lawyer.

A casket in England is a small box used to contain valuables or jewelry. A jumper is a sweater and trainers are shoes. The boot is the trunk of a car and braces are suspenders. These are just a few examples but we can clearly see words and one's connotation of them can make a tremendous difference in understanding.

Speaking in churches in several countries, I've needed an interpreter. In a service in Cuba, I suddenly realized my wording would not translate and I stopped the interpreter before he attempted to explain to the con-

gregation.

Later I was asked how I knew so quickly my words would not translate. It was because of the many meanings of words in English and their transitioning into Español.

In several African countries, interpreters talked five minutes to explain one short sentence. I should have realized what I had said would not translate using the same number of words.

I once thought I spoke the English language. That was before I spent time in Ireland and South Africa. The people in both those countries speak English but I cannot understand a word being said.

A friend from Massachusetts pronounces the letter "R" as "ah." I have to pay close attention to understand what he is saying.

This all being said, we must understand, at times people become tangled and confused at wording. This is especially true when communicating with people from other countries or geographical areas. Extended time spans also make a tremendous difference.

Misinterpretation and misunderstanding is common and very likely at times have to led to altercations and even wars. Confusion in language translation can develop into many problems.

English words can have multiple meanings in other languages. The Hebrew word for day is yom. Yom has multiple meanings. For example, it can mean a literal 24

hour day, a generation or an unspecified period of time.

The Hebrew word "ebed" means slave, assistant or servant. We can clearly see the confusion in colonial America over Leviticus 25: 39-55 and Ephesians 6: 5-6.

When we consider the King James Version of the Bible was first published in 1611, in England, it only makes sense that the wordage from 400 years ago in England might be confusing to us today in America. A different time and a different place can make a tremendous amount of difference.

Romans 8: 33 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth."

Romans chapter eight has left many with the belief that God chooses and foreknew and selected who would go to Heaven and who would not. The word "elect" in verse thirty-three (see the scripture above) has led to great divisions in the church.

The Hebrew word "bachar" can mean to choose, elect, select, decide, or chosen. Choose, select or decide denotes an action by an individual which indicates it is a verb.

"The Church" is, all those that are believer-followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. If there is a time in recent history that Christians must not be divided, it is now (Matthew 24: 9).

The correct meaning of the word "elect" indicates individuals elect (choose) for them-

selves, individually and personally, whether or not to believe in Christ Jesus crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected.

We have a choice and freedom to choose many concepts, ideologies, theories and hypothesis in which to have an opinion or belief. Possibly the word "elect" has been confused with "select."

Perhaps "elect" was a poor choice of words for King James to use in verse 33, but for now, we have to deal with it. The confusion that exists concerning this word has left many with the attitude, "If God has already determined where I'll spend eternity, why should I believe anything?" "Whosoever" in John 3: 16 clearly means every one of us, all eight billion of us. We all have a choice but someone must tell us of the Gospel and how we may have eternal salvation. Had God Jesus (John 1: 1, John 10: 30) already chosen who was to be saved and who was not, why did He state the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20. Acts 1: 8)?

Romans 8: 29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." There is a distinctive difference in "what God knows" and "what God determines." God well knows who will and who will not believe but they/we still have freedom to choose. God knows the future which includes

our future choices. God knew Eve would be tempted by the serpent and would partake of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Yet he left the choice with her and Adam; they chose wrong.

Had He already chosen, why did Jesus have to die on the cross? In reading specifics on death by crucifixion, I'm very sure He would have found being nailed to a cross and suffering for six hours as unnecessary.

If you noticed in verse 30 (the leading scripture), the word "predestined" is used but then it is defined. The referring is to those He has specifically called into service. In today's world we would likely think of that as a vocational or avoca-

tional choice. We must also consider the choices of words in the many versions of the Bible. Did God know a thousand years ago (or a million years) that I was going to be ordained as a Gospel evangelist, preach in His churches and write hundreds of articles promoting His Gospel? I think He did!

1 Timothy 2: 3-4 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have ALL men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. A part of the Bible Connection series. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

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Sebree City Council Approves Cemetery Ordinance

The Sebree City Council conducted their first business of the new year at their monthly meeting last Tuesday.

Local code enforcement officer Deb Stull reported to the group that she currently had 13 open cases she was working on to try and resolve any issues on the properties. She noted notification letters had been mailed and she was currently working with setting deadlines for compliance and assisting property owners to meet the deadlines for getting the property up to code.

When asked if the 13 cases were new or from the previous code enforcement officer, Stull told the council members that they were all new cases she opened and that she had not been given any records from the previous code enforcement officer. However, the older case files, when found, will be given to Stull so she can review and follow up on any previous communications with any property owners who were contacted prior to her accepting the code

enforcement position for the city.

On as motion by Billy Smith and a second by Jim Allen Williams, the council then approved the second reading of the new cemetery ordinance dealing with Springdale Cemetery. The new ordinance calls for cornerstone markers on all cemetery lots and speaks to what can and cannot be placed in the cemetery lots and at gravesites (benches, items sitting on the ground, etc) as well as the size and placement of headstones and foot stones. The second reading is scheduled for the February meeting.

The council also approved the first reading of ordinances pertaining to golf carts usage in the city and the use of ATV's within the city limits. The ordinances were discussed at length before the vote to approve the first readings and now await the February meeting for the second reading. At the February meeting, the council may have the second reading on one, both or neither of the ordinances.

The discussion of the use of golf carts and/or ATV's within the city limits has been going on for several months during which time the council has worked to try and agree on the requirements and restrictions for the two different types of vehicles. The language in the ordinances that were approved for the first reading on Monday came directly from the state statutes concerning these type of vehicles according to city attorney Will Cox.

In other business, councilwoman Meghan Brown asked the council about funding for new bleachers at the local little league field. She said the bleachers were in bad shape and needed to be replaced or repaired. Cox told the group that as long as cost was below \$30,000.00 any work would not have to go out on bids, but he did recommend getting prices from several contractors before proceeding. The council is going to review the budget to see if funding would be

available for the project.

-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

CITY OF SEBREE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE No. 2023-005

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SPRINGDALE CEMETERY

WHEREAS, the City of Sebree owns, operates, and maintains the Springdale Cemetery and desires to establish certain regulations and rules governing the location of headstones, monuments, and other items within the cemetery;

Now THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SEBREE, KENTUCKY:

All lots in Springdale Cemetery are subject to the following rules and regulations:

- All cemetery lots shall be identified by ownership cornerstones which shall be installed within 120 days from the date of lot purchase.
- Flowers must be placed in vases that are mounted on the monument, in monument saddles, or placed on shepherd hooks. Shepherd hooks shall be placed behind any headstone that is located on the cemetery lot and shall be limited to no more than two hooks per lot. Flowers may not be placed directly on the ground; however, wreath and/or flower stands and grave blankets shall be allowed during the period from November 1 to March 1. No fence, bench or other ornamental structure other than a headstone may be placed on a cemetery lot without the prior written consent of the cemetery caretaker or director or his or her designee. Wooden, plastic, or concrete benches shall not be permitted. Any approved granite bench shall be placed at the head of the burial plot and used as a headstone.
- All ornamental or decorative items (exclusive of headstones) and flowers placed on the ground shall be removed. Trees, shrubs, fences, toys, gravel, beads, picture frames, statues, bird feeders, plaques, pinwheels, silver lights, and items of a similar nature which hinder, delay, or interfere with mowing and maintenance of the cemetery lot are not permitted.
- Any items placed or left upon a cemetery lot in violation of these rules and regulations may be removed and discarded by the City of Sebree without liability.
- All items authorized by this ordinance shall only be placed on the cemetery lot in a location designated by the cemetery caretaker or director or his or her designee.
- Unless otherwise provided in this ordinance, the following dimensions shall apply to headstones and foot stones:
 - Headstones shall not exceed the following dimensions:
 - Single Headstone: not to exceed 36 inches in width
 - Double Headstone: not to exceed 78 inches in width
 - Foot stones (excluding bronze VA foot stones) shall not exceed the following dimensions:
 - Single Foot stone: not to exceed 28" X 12" X 8"
 - Double Foot stone: not to exceed 48" X 12" X 8"
- All burial locations shall be designated or marked by the cemetery caretaker or director or his or her designee prior to any grave opening. All grave openings and closings shall be done by authorized personnel only.
- All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

READING/ADOPTION

The foregoing ordinance was read and presented for its first reading at the Meeting of the Sebree City Council conducted on December 18, 2023, and for its second reading at the Meeting of the Sebree City Council conducted on January 16, 2024.

Upon the motion of Council member Billy Smith, seconded by Council member Jim Williams, to adopt the Ordinance, the City Council voted as follows:

Jana Forker	Aye
Billy Smith	Aye
Perry Culbertson	Absent
Jim Williams	Aye
Pam Jones	Aye
Megan Brown	Aye

WHEREUPON, it appearing that five council members voted AYE on the Motion and no council members voted NO on the motion, the Mayor announced that the motion PASSED and, if PASSED, that the above-state Ordinance would be submitted for his signature and then published as required by law, to be effective immediately upon the completion thereof.

Dated this the 16th day of January 2024.

JEREMY BROWN, Mayor
City of Sebree, KY

CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that I am the City Clerk of the City of Sebree, that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted as aforesaid, and that such Ordinance was duly published in The Sebree Banner, a newspaper qualified to make such publication on the 24th day of January 2024.

MONTE DAVENPORT, City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Sebree, KY

Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 3250 hours between January 14 and January 20, 2024. Hours worked include 2000 hours at the detention center; 800 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing crew; 160 hours for Union County; 40 hours for city of Clay; 40 hours for the city of Dixon; 80 hours for the city of Providence; 40 hours recycling; 40 hours in the road department shop; and 40 hours for the dog warden.

The total jail population is 169

with 49 county inmates; 25 Union County inmates and 89 state prisoners.

Incarcerated during the same period were
April Berry
Trena Duncan
Joshua Gilmoer
Justin Green
Sherman Keysor
Darrell McCallister
Antonio McGuire
Jordan Morfoo
Dakota Stewart