

## Who Is A Good Candidate?

2 Pet. 1:10-11

### Intro.

- A. Though I'm not a prophet or the son of a prophet, my guess = that you're tired of hearing about candidates
1. On every hand, we are urged to vote or this man or woman & for this political party or that position
  2. With all the thought we have been forced to have on the selection process, let's make a sp. application.
- B. In N. T. we read of another *election*. The words *elect, elected & election* = used 20 times => salvation.
1. Peter  $\geq$  a politician, but he taught -- importance of being involved in elections – *OUR OWN!* **2 Pt. 1:10**
  2. In **Mt. 7:13f** Jesus taught that only a few would “*be elected*”. feast.
    - a. According to polls, 70% of Ams. believe they = in heaven, on invitation list to Lamb's marriage
    - b. When Jesus explained how difficult it is to make it to heave, the disciples marveled., **Mt. 19:23-26**
    - c. They asked, *Who then can be saved???*
- C. Good question: *Who can be saved?*
1. Christ said it was impossible for any to be saved by man, but with God all things = possible.
  2. Studying *elections* of past in book of conversions (Acts) will help us see what makes a good candidate.

### Discuss.

#### I. In **ACTS 2** – THOSE DEVOUT IN FALSE RELIGION made for good candidates.

- A. 1,000's of dedicated religious people traveled gt. distances to Jerusalem for Feast of Pentecost in A.D. 33.
1. Peter made it absolutely clear that they were lost & needed to do something to be saved. (**22, 37f**)
  2. There were better than 3,000 convinced that they needed to believe in Jesus, repent, be bapt., **37-41.**
  3. Luke says those baptized were *added to the church*, **47.**
- B. Today, there are many devout religious people who still need to be converted to Christ.
1. God not only looks for devotion—He looks to see if our relig. practices are right (accord. to Bible)**Ps.19:8**
  2. No one can be saved when devoted to a *false religion*, (**Gal. 1:6-9; Rm. 9:2,3; 10:1-3**)

#### II. In **Ac. 8:4-12**, THOSE DECEIVED BY “MIRACLES” made good candidates.

- A. Simon the sorcerer for long time had deceived many in Samaria into believing he could do miracles, (**11**)
1. Yet, when Samaritans heard Philip's preaching the Truth, & saw God's real power, they = converted (**12**)
  2. Simon has many “kindred spirits” today who claim miraculous powers.
- B. People who *buy in* to these charlatans need to be wise to the *tricks of the trade*.
1. Modern day “*faith (fake) healers*” study how to move audiences & carefully stage their productions.
  2. They learn to use psychology & closely screen applicants.
- C. The schemes of these modern day sorcerers should be exchanged for the Truth.
1. The age of miracles ended with the passing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cent., but Jesus' saving work continues, **Mt. 11:28ff**
  2. Everyone needs to learn that => Bible = standard to be used in judgment (**Jn. 12:48**) & our relig. = Bible.

#### III. THOSE WHO WERE SINCERELY WRONG (**Ac. 10**) made good candidates.

- A. Cornelius = a good man—God-fearing, generous & very religious. **vs. 2**
1. If any could be saved w/o obey truth of gospel, it would be him.
  2. But he had to send for Peter to learn the Truth (**10:5 & 11:4**) & be converted to Christ, **10:48**
- B. Most believe they = acceptable to God → they have good morals, good givers, obey law, & go to church
1. Cornelius would tell them: *Being good person  $\geq$  enough.*
  2. You need to be bapt. into Christ & become a member of His church (cf. **Gal. 3:26-27**)

#### IV. THOSE COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF GOD (**Ac. 16:30-34**) made good candidates.


- A. Jailor in Philippi =x= a Jew, & new little if anything of a Messiah.
1. Paul & Silas taught him so he could believe on Christ to be saved (**vs. 31**)
  2. When he learned what was involved, & shared the Truth w/ all his household,
  3. They were all baptized (**33**) around midnight, & afterwards were described as “*believers*”

B. An informed (taught) jailor was anxious for others who were ignorant to be taught.

1. All who have never heard the Gospel Message need to be taught, & not ignored.
2. They need know that spiritually, *Education pays!* (Kentucky slogan).

**V. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMMORAL IN THE PAST (Ac. 18:8) made good candidates.**

ungodliness

- A. Where we have our San Francisco & Las Vegas, Rome had her Corinth, citizens renowned for immorality 
1. Even a seasoned veteran like Paul was fearful of evangelizing Corinthians, **1 Cor. 2:3 (Ac. 18:9-10)**
  2. Many on membership roll in Corinth were likely named previously in police records, gossip columns  
**1 Cor. 6:9-11**
  3. Yet, when they heard the Words of Truth, many had obeyed!
- B. The Gospel is really powerful enough to reach the *out-in-out sinner*, **Rom. 1:16**
1. It can separate liquor bottle f/ drunkard, pills f/ an addict, the fornicator f/ his or her immoral relationship, c. **Heb. 4:12.**
  2. We must guard against judging anyone as being unfit for Bible teaching. (Jesus taught sinners, **Lk. 7:34**)
  3. Those presently entangled in sinful habits should not judge 'selves as unfit. **People can change!!!**

**VI. THOSE PREVIOUSLY BAPTIZED, BUT IGNORANT OF TRUTH (Ac. 19:1-6) made good candidates.**

- A. Paul studied with some who have been baptized earlier, but incorrectly.
1. He worked to correct misunderstandings, & they desired to participate in baptism Biblically. **Ac.19**
  2. Some Paul taught had been *baptized for the dead*, c/ **1 Cor. 15:29**, even as some are today.
- B. Others who have been "baptized", but still need to be converted.....
1. ...those baptized as infants. They need to be taught that N. T. baptism was for believers, **Mk. 16:16**
  2. ...those who believe they = saved *before* they were baptized. Need to learn bapt. erases sin, **Ac 22:16**
  3. ...those "baptized" by sprinkling or pouring, as opposed to *immersion*, **Rom. 6:4**
  4. ...those who failed to repent of sin before their baptism, **Ac. 2:38**

Concl.

A. ***Who is a good candidate for salvation?***

1. We all are.....no exceptions.
  2. Each & every one who believes...repents....confesses....determined to please God...needs be baptized.
  3. Any who are Christians, but have not been faithful to God. They need to repent, confess & pray **Js.5:16**
- B. One old preacher who had little formal education, but knew about "politics" put it like this:
1. *God voted for you; the devil voted against you.*
  2. *Now it's up to you to cast the deciding vote* **The polls are open!**