

The Bible teaches that God has His own people that He has loved from eternity past and they will be with Him in the glories of heaven for ever. These are called the Elect. The paradox is that these people are the very people that come to realise through the Holy Spirit's teaching they are heading for Hell because they have sinned against God. They are believers in the truth that the wages of their sin is death and everlasting punishment. As none of God's people can ever go to Hell it follows that these people believe they cannot be God's people at all – they cannot be the Elect, they are the lost.

It is to precisely this type of person that the Lord Jesus has come into the world to save – those that absolutely know they cannot save themselves. Through the Holy Spirit's teaching they believe in a merciful Jesus - One that is able to spare them the punishments they rightly deserve. Jesus kindly tells them that those that seek mercy will obtain mercy and their sins will be forgiven. This is backed up by many promises such as 'I will call them my people that were not my people, and her beloved that was not beloved', and 'those that are not my people shall be called the children of the living God'. In effect these people that absolutely expected to be labelled 'not my people' find themselves called 'His people' – the Elect. They are promised they can never experience the punishment of God and will only ever know the kindness of God.

These promises of God are vested in His faithfulness – they cannot fail to come to pass. The doctrine of election is an assurance that these people that know they can never be God's people by their own righteousness are made God's people for ever by His grace. They come to see God has loved them with an everlasting love – and that love cannot fail through all eternity.

An old minister used to put it like this: "The door to eternal life has written on the outside a message to all that pass by: 'Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest'. It is only once we have obeyed and come to the Lord Jesus seeking His mercy and been received by Him and once on the inside we see what is written on this side of the door: 'Elect according to the foreknowledge of God'."