

Chosen and Loved

1 Peter 1:1-2

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.”

1. What makes the doctrine of election difficult to accept?
 - a. An unwillingness to accept our true condition apart from Christ.
 - i. That we are dead in our sins, hostile to God, and deserving of wrath.
 - ii. That we can contribute nothing for our salvation but are dependent on grace.
 - b. An unwillingness to let go of deeply held entitlements.
 - i. We feel entitled to equal treatment (fairness).
 - ii. We feel entitled to a *personally* satisfying explanation.
2. What is God’s foreknowledge?
 - a. Understanding the word.
 - b. Possible meanings.
 - c. Biblical examples and Peter’s meaning.
3. How should we respond?
 - a. With profound humility and gratitude.
 - b. With praise in our hearts toward God.
 - c. With boldness and confidence.

*The Letter to
God's Elect*



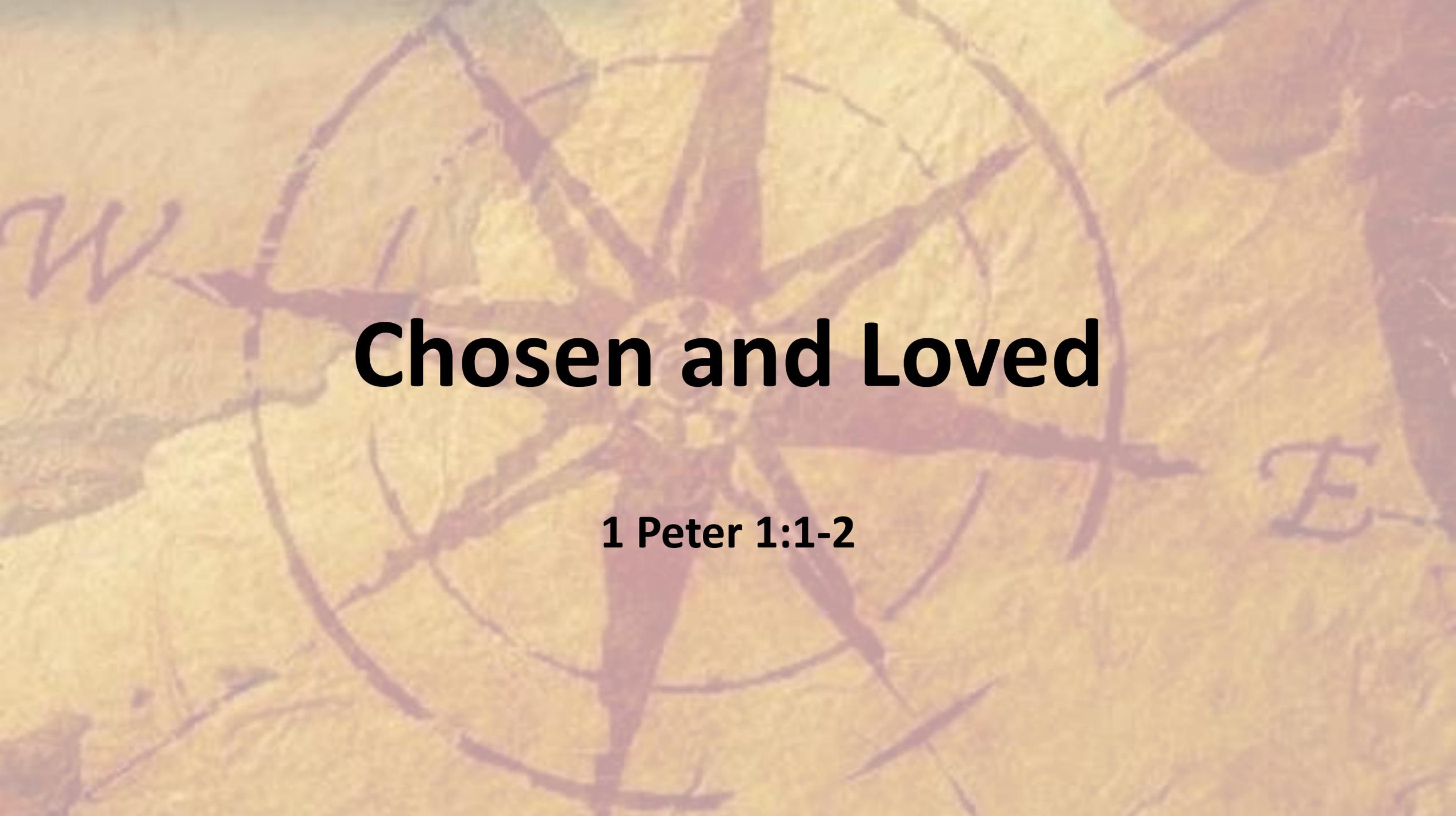
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Reviewing Some Preliminary Thoughts

*This is a difficult subject for our minds,
so we must fight the temptation to shut down
or to run off into speculation.*

*This is a difficult subject for our hearts,
so we must fight the temptation to react emotionally.*

*This is a difficult subject, so we must commit
ourselves to charity that flows from humility.*

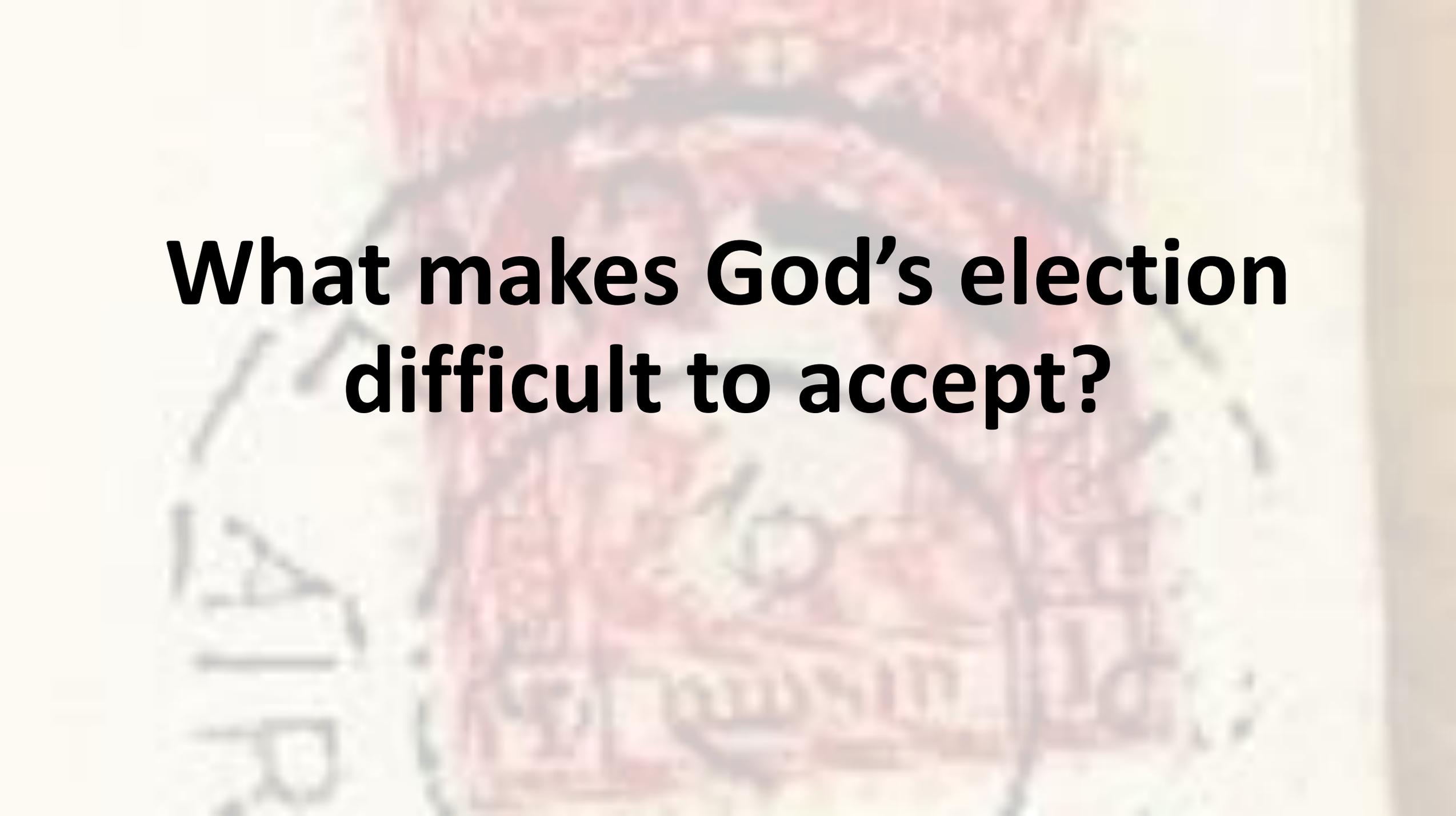
What is election?

It is revealed truth.

*The word “elect” is used more than **50x**.*

**What is it according to
Scripture...**

It is God's eternal and free choice to save a people for Himself out of corruption and from damnation, not because of any disposition, faith, or holiness that He foresaw in them, but by His inestimable wisdom, out of His great mercy, and for His own glory.



**What makes God's election
difficult to accept?**

What makes election difficult?

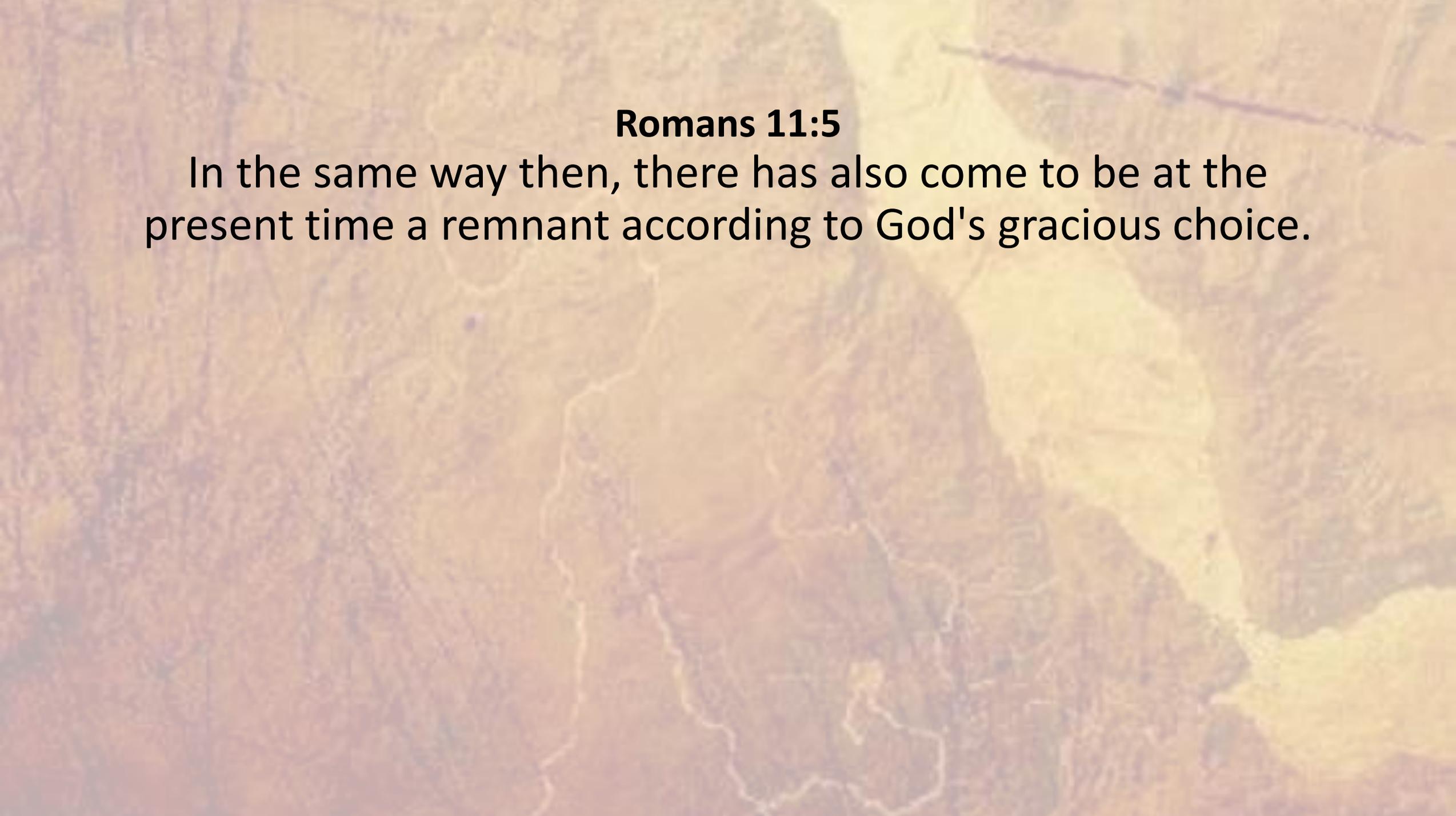
An unwillingness to accept our true condition apart from grace.

Our Condition?

That we were dead in our sins, hostile to God, and deserving of God's wrath.

Our Condition?

That we can contribute **nothing** for our salvation but are dependent entirely upon God's grace.



Romans 11:5

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Romans 11:5-6

In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, **otherwise grace is no longer grace.**

*If God's choice is based on anything that merits His favor, His choice is no longer **gracious.***

What makes election difficult?

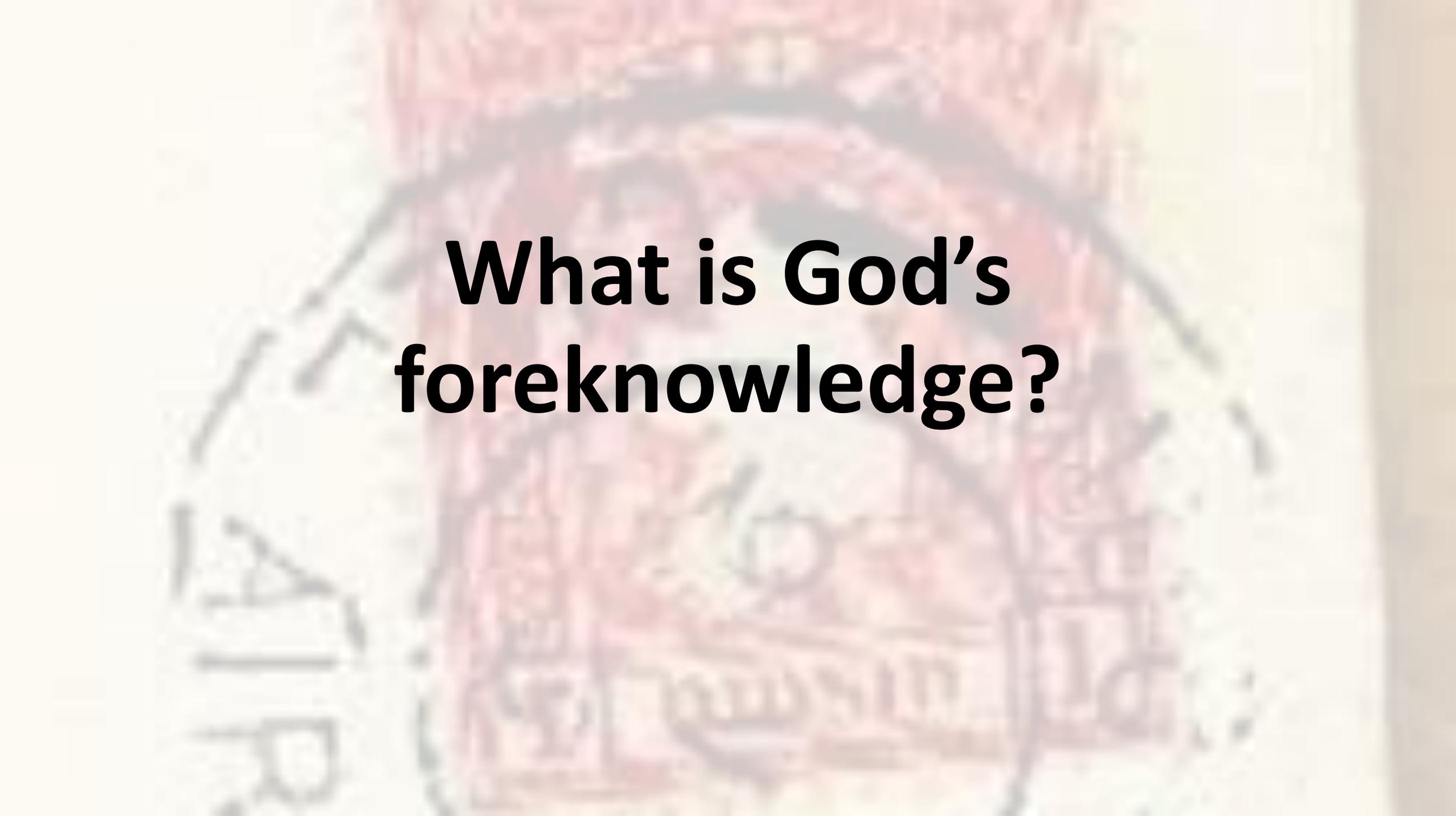
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An unwillingness to let go of
deeply held entitlements.

Our Entitlements?

We feel entitled to equal treatment
(fairness).

We feel entitled to an explanation
that is *personally* satisfying.



**What is God's
foreknowledge?**

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ to those...who are chosen **according to the foreknowledge of God** the Father by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.

The word...

To Foreknow = *Pro-ginosko*

“To know before”

Foreknowledge = *Pro-gnosis*

“Before-knowledge”

Two possibilities for Peter's meaning.

1. God's advance knowledge of all people's moral fitness or future faith.

This knowledge is informational.

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1. God's advance knowledge of all people's moral fitness or future faith.
2. God's eternal choice to enter into covenant:
His determination to love and be loved (*to know and be known*).

This knowledge is relational.

Examples of advance *information*

Acts 26:4-5

So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; since they **have known** about me for a long time **previously...**

2 Peter 3:17

You therefore, beloved, **knowing this beforehand**, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men...

Examples of advance relationship

Romans 11:2

God has not rejected His people whom He **foreknew**.

1 Peter 1:20

For **He** [Christ] **was foreknown** before the foundation of the world...

Romans 8:29

For those whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.

The important word in the word
foreknow is the word *know*.

*Fore**know***

*“Knowing” often refers to love, intimacy,
and choice.*

“Knowing” as intimacy or choice.

Genesis 4:1

Now the man **knew** his wife Eve, and she conceived...

Genesis 18:19

For I have chosen (**known**) him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD...

Deuteronomy 9:24

You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day I **knew** you.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you...

“Knowing” as intimacy or choice.

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd, and I know My own
and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me
and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

“Knowing” as intimacy or choice.

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“Knowing” as intimacy or choice.

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and **I know them**,
and they follow Me.

Matthew 7:23

And then I will declare to them, “**I never knew you**;
depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”

What about our passage?

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ to those...who are **elect**
according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...

*Did God elect them in keeping with
information He had about them?*

*Or did He elect them in keeping with His own
eternal and free decision to love them?*

God did not choose you because of any disposition, faith, or holiness that He foresaw in you, but by His inestimable wisdom, out of His great mercy, and for His own glory.

How should we respond?

With profound humility and gratitude.

With praise in our hearts towards God.

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