**The Bible on Election**(selected by Steve Laube)

He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

God said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

[Jesus said] “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you….No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” For many are called, but few are chosen.

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ…not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.

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Ephesians 1:3-5; Exodus 33:19; Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Corinthians 1:27-29; John 15:16,19; 6:44;
Romans 8:29-30; Romans 9:14-15;Matt 22:14; 1 Thess 5:9; Col 3:12; Philippians 1:6; 2 Tim 1:9; Matt 11:25