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EXEGETICAL STUDY OF JOHN 15:16 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS TO
CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS

BY

ADEKUNLE OLADIMEJI ONADOKUN

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ABSTRACT

Election is that act of grace by which God chooses a companion with whom to live in an intimate relationship of love and responsibility. This is reflected in the statement of Jesus to his Disciples “you yourself chose me not, but I myself chose you and appointed you in order that you should go and bear fruit and your fruit should remain” this is a pointer to the fact that disciples are chosen for a purpose, to bear fruit that remains. Jesus’ instruction to his chosen ones is to go and bear fruit, the fruit is primarily to make converts which emanates from their lifestyle and mission.

In spite of Jesus’ instruction, the commitment to fruit bearing in churches and the society is now at fallen rate. But God’s plan and purpose in choosing or electing believers is to go and bear fruit that will last. Therefore, in this research work an historical interpretation of the passage is employed to undrape the purpose of disciples’ election. This work reveals that Christians are chosen people and that they are chosen for a purpose of which the answer to their prayers hinges or dependent upon. Therefore, commitment to the purpose of their election will go a long way in impacting the church and the society thereby making it a better place to live. For a regenerated society is as a result of Christian fruitfulness.

In order to promote Christian fruitfulness, this work highlights general overview of election. It also examines what it meant to various biblical scholars and what it meant in the Bible by exegetically looking at election as portrayed by Jesus in the discourse with his disciples in John 15:16. And also the researcher provides some implication for Christians and the church.

Furthermore, this work examines the implication of bearing an abiding fruit in the church and society. It is noted that a regenerated society is as a result of Christian fruitfulness. In other words the contemporary society can only be better if Christians take the issue of bearing an abiding fruit as a matter of must. Also, answer to prayer is hinge on the commitments of believers to fruit bearing.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This thesis has focused on the election of disciples and the purpose of their election, by means of exegetical analysis of John 15:16. Jesus declared to his disciples “You yourself chose me not, but I myself chose you and appointed you...” This thesis also reveals that Jesus’ choice of his disciple does not depend on their will to choose as their rabbi but it was hinge on his own volition to choose them for a specific assignment. This indicates that Christians are chosen people, and not by accident but by Christ’ volition. Therefore, Christians are supposed to live their lives with the consciousness that they are chosen people and are expected to be a model to others in the society.

In response to the foregoing the disciples are expected to go and bear fruit, not just any fruit but fruit that remains. That is they are to be involved in mission that will bring about the conversion of sinners which they are to nurture through discipleship and Bible study. Therefore, Jesus chose his disciples purposely to bear fruit that remains. So, it becomes imperative for Christian to be committed to mandate of fruit bearing given to them by the Lord Jesus. Hence, in order to fulfil Jesus’ mandate Christians must not be idle, they must not be silent, and they must not be satisfied with their past successes as touching bearing fruit that remains.

Finally, the answer to the prayers of the disciples is dependent on the fulfilment of divine mandate of bearing fruit that remains. For Jesus said "...in order that anything you may ask the father in my name he may give it to you." Therefore, the church should be committed to the ministry of soul winning and discipleship so as to nurture the converts to maturity. Because for this the Father will be glorified as church bears fruit that remains.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking at the outcome of the exegetical study of John 15:16 and its implications for contemporary Christians, the following recommendations are suggested to believers to fulfil the mandate of bearing an abiding fruit on them

Every individual Christian should know that he/she is a chosen person, and according to 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." There is need to walk in that consciousness and bring glory to God.

Christians should know as gory as the contemporary society may appear, they must minister with the aim of rectifying that menace. The society needs peace, and the only way to have peace is to enthrone the Prince of Peace. Christians should explore the technological advancement, such as information technology with the use of GSM and internet facilities in this 21st century so as to meet people at their level.

Attention should be giving to follow up and discipleship. The church must take care and water what she has planted, that her fruit may remain, that the souls whom she has gathered in may remain within the flock.

Lastly, Fruit oriented Church must continue instant in prayer so that her labours may be accompanied with the presence and blessing of God. Since Christ has promised "...in order that anything you may ask the Father in the name of me he may give you." The church should lay emphasis on missions and also be committed to it. The church should motivate her member through constant reminder from the pulpit.