God’s Elect
Col. 3:1-17 (v. 12)

Introduction:
A. “Am I one of God’s elect?” — A troubling question for many.
   1. Calvinism’s idea of election is spiritually fatal.
   2. Free agency taught from Genesis to Revelation (Gen. 3; Josh 24:15; Matt 11:28; Rev. 3:30)
B. Paul appeals to Colossians “as the elect of God.” (V. 12)
   1. 23 New Testament references to elect, elected or election.
   2. “Elect” means chosen or called. — conditional, not arbitrary.
C. Paul points out some features of God’s elect:

Discussion:
I. They Have Been Raised with Christ (v. 1).
   A. Baptized, raised and forgiven at same time. (2:12-13).
   B. Baptism is form of death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3,4; 16-18).
II. They Have Put off the Old Man (v. 9).
   A. His deeds must be put to death (vv. 5, 8).
   B. His deeds subjects one to the wrath of God (v. 6).
   C. His deeds must be kept in the past tense — “once walked”, “lived” in them (v. 7).
III. They Have Put on the New Man (v. 10).
   A. His deeds must now be done (vv. 12-16).
   B. His deeds are in stark contrast to old man of past.
      1. Difference between “old” and “new.”
      2. Difference between “light” and “darkness.” (Col. 12,13).
      3. Difference between “conformed” and “transformed.” (Rom. 12:2).
   C. His deeds should be evident to our neighbors. (Matt. 5:16).
IV. They Have Been Called to One Body (v. 15).
   A. Jesus is head of the body, the church (ekklesia — called out or chosen ones 1:18).
   B. Jesus is savior of the body. (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).
   C. Less than one body is too few, more is too many, other than is wrong one.
V. They Have Totally Submitted to Christ’s Authority (v. 17).
   A. “In the name of “ = By the authority and blessing of.
   B. “Whatever … in word or need” = complete submission.
   C. Claiming to be “in the name of” is not enough. (Matt. 7:21-23).
   D. Self-imposed religion is vain or useless (2:20-23; Matt. 15:9).

Conclusion:
A. One must obey to be elected.
B. One must continue to obey to stay elected. (Cf. 2 Pet. 1:10.11)