

# CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Rom 1:1-7

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a great deal of misunderstanding today in regard to who is a saint,
- B. Look at this from the standpoint of finding out Just who is a saint and then give encouragement to those who are
- C. As we will see in the lesson, being a saint implies a certain type of conduct

## DISCUSSION:

### I. JUST WHAT IS A SAINT?

- A. There is confusion among men in answer to the question
  1. Some Bibles title New Testament books: St Matthew; St John; St Paul and St Peter, while other texts leave off the title of "St. "
  2. Catholic canon of saints such as St, George, Joan of Arc. Patrick, Valentine and many others
    - a. Persons who supposedly have had some miraculous powers and have been dead for a period of time
    - b. Upon proper recommendations the Pope Beatifies, then canonizes the person
    - c. There will probably be a canonization of "Mother Teresa" following her recent death
  3. In our society "sainthood" is a human religious concept; a commendation extended by man, exalting one person over another
  4. Then there are average people who say "I am no saint, but I do this or that good deed" etc.
- B. How does the Bible use the term "saint"
  1. The New Testament concept is quite different, it is not a status reserved for a few, but a way of life available to all who are willing to obey God and live as He directs
  2. Solomon used the term to apply to all God's people at the dedication of the Temple 2Chron 6:41
  3. In the Psalms, David calls on saints to: Fear God 34:9; Love God 31:23; Sing to God 30:4; Shout for Joy 132:9
  4. Salutations of Paul in Rom 1:7; 1Cor 1:2; 2Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Phil 1:1 and Col 1:2 all contain the word "saints", applying the term to all those addressed Note also its usage in Acts 9:13,32,41; 26:10
  5. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for saints Rom 8:27 (Note: there is nothing said about saints interceding with God for man)
  6. Christians are to minister to the needs of saints Rom 12:13; 1Tim 5:10

7. When Paul brought funds for relief of the hungering in Judea, he called them saints Rom 15 26-31

8. All of God's people are called saints in the Bible

### C. What is the meaning of the word itself?

1. In the Greek "hagios" used over 200 times in noun and adjective forms and means holy or holy one
2. In Vincent's word studies he says the root idea is "charity, freedom from admixture of evil" Vol.1p.587
3. All God's people are to be "chaste" (pure) 2Cor 11:2; 1Pet 3:2 and "free from evil" 1Thess 5:22
4. We conclude again that all God's children are regarded as saints – we are sanctified or set apart

D. It doesn't mean a trouble-free life Acts 9:13; 26:10

E. It doesn't mean you will never be in need Rom 12:13; 15:25,26; 2Cor 9:1,12

### II. THE CONDUCT BECOMING SAINTS Eph 5:3

- A. Those who have been cleansed of sins and dedicated to Christ should act like it.
- B. This includes abstinence from sins such as: fornication, uncleanness, covetousness and foul talk Eph 5 3-6; Note also Gal 5:19-21
- C. This includes positive, active goodness as well
  1. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so" Psa 107:2
  2. "Tell what great things the Lord hath done for thee" Mk 5:19
  3. See your good works & glorify the Father Matt 5:16
  4. Husband won by "chaste conversation" 1Pet 3:1,2

### III. THE BLESSINGS OF THE SAINTS

- A. The intercession of the Holy Spirit in problems and needs Rom 8:27
- B. Fellow citizens and part of the household of God Eph 2:19;
- C. Heirs of God Eph 1:18; Col 1:12; Rom 8:17

### IV. WE ARE CALLED TO BE SAINTS BY THE GOSPEL 2Thess 2:14

- A. Involves obedience to the Gospel of Christ Rom 1:16; 2Thess 1:8 (faith, repentance, confession and baptism)
- B. Thereby added to the Lord's church, the sanctified or called out body Acts 2:47
- C. Those added are expected to act in accordance with what the name suggest .

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Christ is coming to be glorified by his saints and to glorify them 2Thess 1:7-10
- B. Are you a saint; have you been sanctified by the blood of Christ?
- C. You can't afford to not be in that number!