

## SAINTS

There are different words used to describe God's people in the New Testament – Body, Flock, Kingdom, Church and other terms that can be used to describe the people of the Lord. I am aware of the religious world using these terms in a different sense – they have redefined the Bible! We consider the Bible and think of how such words are used in the Word of the Lord. This causes us to be different! Peter said: “9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people;*” I Pet. 2:9. The thing that makes us peculiar is: “*We speak where the bible speaks and we are silent where the bible is silent! We call bible things by bible names and do bible things in bible ways.*” Someone has well said, “*These people study their bible and follow it to the best of their ability.*” – *this is what makes them a “peculiar” people.* Someone has well said, these are **BIBLE PEOPLE!**

It is interesting to observe Paul addresses many of his epistles to “**SAINTS:**” **Rom. 1:7**, “*to all that are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints;*” **II Cor. 1:1**, “*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints that are in the whole of Achaia;*” **Eph. 1:1**, “*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints that are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus;*” **Phil. 1:1**, “*1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons;*” **Col. 1:12**, “*12 giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.*” Ananias states Paul did much harm to the saints, “*13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many of this man, how much evil he did to the saints at Jerusalem,*” Acts 9:13. Need I present more texts of the New Testament to show “**saints**” were people, who had obeyed the gospel? Saints are a called out people, called out of the world to serve God and Christ in the Lord's kingdom!

The Roman Catholic Church has made effort to change the meaning of the word “**SAINT.**” They have set the standard by stating one has to be dead for a number of years, then be selected, having a number of miracles associated with his or her life, this person is a candidate for “**SAINTHOOD.**” Needless to say, this is the doctrine of Catholicism and **not the teaching of the Bible.** The teaching of the Bible is, when one obeys the gospel plan of salvation, he or she becomes a saint, a Christian, and is classified as a Child of God.

There is a “*simplicity and purity*” associated with the teaching of Christ, “*3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, you minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ,*” II Cor. 11; In Eph. 3:3-4, Paul say: “*3 How that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, 4 whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ.*” The gospel message is not something that **cannot** be understood; but is presented by God, **for all to understand.** Possibly, this is why it is stated, “*The common people heard him gladly,*” Mk. 12:37. The message was simple, plain and direct to the point – this message can be understood by the average person!

Every person who becomes a Christian is a “**SAINT**” and is; thus, set aside to extend glory and honor to the Father of light. When one then, obeys the gospel, it should be understood they are to be different from the world. We should be loaded with the gospel message and anxiously taking opportunity to teach others the message delivered from heaven to earthly beings. In this sense, every person becomes unique and special. He/she is a “**SAINT!**”

May the Lord bless us in realizing we have a mission in life – to teach others

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