

When Saints Go Marching In!

No, I am not talking about a touchdown for the New Orleans Saints. Many would associate this term and word with saint. Many do not understand the true meaning behind the word. There are many privileges and rewards through God that can be found.

I am talking about a word that many people tend to avoid. That of course is, saints. Many will not use this word to discuss Christians. This term is misused in many aspects of religion. Some use it today to designate only those who are named after distinct positions in the church. Some use it to place one on a higher pedestal. Is this the way a saint is described in the Bible? However, as we look throughout the scriptures it is used and we want to look at this for a few moments.

The saints are special to God (**I Peter 2:9**). These are chosen ones of God. They are special to God because the desire is to serve God. They are known as the beloved of God (**Romans 1:7**). Paul reiterates again to those in Corinth. He was writing to saints about concerns of sin (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**). Those were separated from God yet again. They were falling into a dangerous loop that would have grave results. The reason is that they were saints. This was not the way to act. He goes on to say they were washed. They put on Christ through baptism and saved!

The word saint means is a noun form of the word "sanctify." This is to set apart or to separate. Paul speaks of saints that were falling back into sin were at one time sanctified (**I Corinthians 6:11**). Saints of God are ones who have set apart their ways from the world and have turned towards God.

Christ in His time on the earth when he took on flesh and blood was sanctified from the world (**John 17:19**). Christ did it all for us. He left us a perfect example that was sanctified. Meaning His ways were different from what everyone is and was accustomed. He was separated from the world in righteousness and holiness.

Christ came into the world to give us the way, truth, and life (**John 14:1-6**). This was done for the saints. He sanctified the way to make the path for those who make their desire to obey the Father's will. His sacrifice was separate from the rest of all the sacrifices (**Hebrews 10:1-10**). Animal sacrifices were a yearly practice to cleanse themselves from their iniquities. However, they had to do this every year. This is the greatness of the sacrifice (**Hebrews 9:23-28**). It was done once and for all mankind. The sacrifice of Christ was sanctified compared to the animal sacrifices. Saints are separate and can enjoy the true blessings of being sanctified.

The ways of Christ lead us to being a saint leading us to be sanctified by the truth. The truth of course makes us free and sanctified (**John 8:32**) from sin. Sin is the norm of the world. However, when putting on Christ through baptism (**Romans 6:1-7**) by being a living sacrifice (**Romans 12:1-2**) we have put away sin being sanctified meaning, being different from the norm.

The special benefits of being a saint is that God has offered a place eternally for the faithful. Christ went to prepare this home for the saints. That is, for those who set apart their ways from the world. This place is prepared for His faithful who stay away from sin (**Revelation 21:22-27**). This is the place where the "Saints Go Marching In"!

Christ set apart those who will follow and obey the Father's will to have their sins forgiven with the sacrifice of Himself (**Hebrews 10:11-18**). Christ has gone to sit down at the right hand of God after he gave Himself on the cross for us. Christ has perfected the way of life for His saints.

Saints have been sanctified by the word of truth (**John 17:17**). The Truth has separated from the standard of the world and, Christ gave it. We as saints need to be holy because Christ is Holy (**I Peter 1:15-16**). Our conduct needs to be different as a light so others can see to get out of the darkness (**Matthew 5:14-16**). The word of truth must be our guide (**Psalms 119:97-105**). It goes further than the logic of man. It gives instruction on how to reach the places we cannot physically see. It shows how to be sanctified through God.

Are we part of the sainthood given by God through the grace of Jesus Christ?

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