



Saturday 11/2 at 4:00 | Sunday 11/3 at 9:00

All Saints Day – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Last Friday was November 1, which is recognized by many as All Saints Day. Since many seem to be confused about saints, this sermon will give *Bible answers* to the following questions:

- ✦ What is a saint?
- ✦ How are saints blessed by the LORD?
- ✦ How should saints respond the LORD?

Before we get to the questions: The term “saints” appears 81 times in the ESV Bible; those references come from:

- ◆ These Hebrew words: *khasid* (כַּסִּיד), meaning “kind,” “pious” (devout, reverent, God-fearing), and *kaddish* (קַדִּישׁ), meaning “sacred,” “holy.”
- ◆ This Greek word: *hagios* (ἅγιος), meaning “holy” (the same word as in *holy* for *Holy Spirit*), “pure,” “consecrated to God.” Now, let’s go to the questions...

1. **What Is a Saint?** Some saints are physically alive, *while others have physically died*. For all people who died in

Christ – *sorry for their sins and trusting in Jesus*, they died as saints and were immediately taken to be with God! Saints also include all living people who were baptized into Christ and, *right now*, are continuing in Christ! Even though all people are, *by nature and in reality*, unholy, *all who (by God’s grace) remain in Christ are holy in God’s sight!* These passages point to *living people* being saints!

- a. **Acts 9:32** “...Peter... came down... to the saints who lived at Lydda.” That is a town in Israel, 11 miles SE of Joppa (it is now called Lod, which is its OT name).
- b. **2 Cor. 1:1** “...To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia...” Achaia was a province of the Roman Empire.
- c. **Eph. 1:1** “...To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus...” Paul sent his letter to people who were living in Ephesus and trusting in Jesus.
- d. **Eph. 3:8** “...I am the very least of all the saints...” Paul was a persecutor, *but – by God’s grace – he was also a saint through Jesus!*

2. **How Are Saints Blessed by the LORD?** The LORD provides for everyone, but especially for the saints – *the ones He has made holy in His sight through Jesus!*

- a. **Ps. 37:28** “...the LORD... will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever...” God, who made us His own, *will also keep us as His own (Phil 1:6)!*
- b. **Ps. 97:10** “...the LORD... preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.” We all sin, *but the LORD sees the saints as holy while He sees the unbelievers as wicked.*
- c. **Dan. 7:18** “...the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever...” No

one can deserve the kingdom, *but God OFFERS it freely to EVERYONE through Jesus!*

- d. **Dan. 7:27** “...the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High...” Saints are deserving of nothing, *yet they will be given so very much!*
- e. **Matt. 27:52** “The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised...” Those events happened on Good Friday, *and point to what will happen to all believers when Jesus returns; saints raised to live (wicked to be condemned)!*
- f. **Rom. 8:27** “...the [Holy] Spirit intercedes [prays] for the saints according to the will of God.” When believers, thus saints, struggle to communicate their needs to God, *the Spirit is there to help them!*
- g. **Col. 1:12** “...the Father... has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints...” The Father has made sinners into saints through the work of His Son and the Holy Spirit; *now such people are in line for an awesome inheritance!*
- h. **Col. 1:26** “...the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.” And what is that mystery? That God loves ALL PEOPLE and, *through Jesus*, God has made *the way* for ALL PEOPLE to be blessed forevermore! *Let us be compassionate and tell others the good news!*

3. **How Should Saints Respond to the LORD?**

- a. **2 Chr. 6:41** “...let your saints rejoice in your goodness.” Think about it... the LORD is so good to us in countless ways, *so let us rejoice in His goodness!*

- b. **Ps. 30:4** “Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.” Let us **stop** complaining about what we don’t have and **start** giving thanks to God for our many blessings!
- c. **Ps. 34:9** “...fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!” To fear is to trust, obey!
- d. **Ps. 85:8** “...the LORD... will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.” Let us listen to the LORD, *and not return to our own ways!*
- e. In **Eph. 4:12**, Paul explained the work of church leaders: To “**equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...**” *How are you being equipped... building up other believers?*
- f. In **Eph. 6:18**, Paul told the Ephesian believers to pray “**for all the saints...**” *So let us care and pray for others!*
- g. **Rev. 14:12** includes ✦a call and ✦an explanation: “**Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**” *The call is to endure! How? **Keep** ✦trusting in Jesus, ✦growing in God’s Word, and ✦doing God’s will!*
- h. By the way: Since Jesus is the One Mediator (**1 Tim. 2:5**), we do not pray to saints; instead, *for those who lived extraordinary Christian lives*, we hold them up as godly examples for us to follow!

This Week’s Challenge: Now, knowing much about saints, let us be thankful and live up to our calling!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, TY for making us holy in Your sight through Jesus; *please keep us trusting Him!*

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