

Theology Tidbits

Ephesians 1:1-2

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Who or what is a Saint?

What do you think of when you hear the word “Saint?” Most of us think of someone who is perhaps “well behaved” or someone known for doing good or nice things for others, people like “Mother Teresa” who made so many sacrifices in order to help so many others during her lifetime. However, is this the Biblical definition of a saint? We will explore this question, as we look at the first passage of our expository study of the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The author of this passage immediately identifies himself, but who are these “saints” he is addressing? What is a saint? We get the word “Saint” from the Greek word “Hagios” which refers (as in this context) to people, (All People) who are blameless, pure, consecrated, set apart, or distinguished from others such as those who have accepted the “gift of salvation by faith” in the finished work of Jesus the Christ. ***It is obvious as Paul continues that he is talking to the Christians or “Faithful Followers of Christ” in Ephesus!*** Some religions such as Catholicism teach that only certain individuals within the Christian faith qualify as saints based on the merits of their actions during their lives on Earth. However, considering the first pope, “Gregory the Great” lived between 540 and 604 AD, and the Book of Ephesians was written between 61 and 64 AD; this was long before this “first pope” could have decreed anyone to be a saint, which brings into question as to the origins of this particular Catholic doctrine! Therefore, if you are a true “Born Again Christian,” you are considered to be a **Saint** (meaning you are consecrated or set apart) according to the Apostle Paul, who was the person used of God, to record the majority of the New Testament, (God’s New Covenant with man!) What does your religion or denomination teach, and what is the basis of their teaching? Check out the following passages for additional references or related verses: **1st Thess. 1:10 - Phil 4:21-23 Jude 1:14 - Rev. 15:3 - 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11**

Points to Ponder

1. A Christian Saint is “Consecrated or Set Apart.” How does that tie Christians and Jews together in the eyes of God?
2. How does one “qualify” to be a Saint?
3. How does the term “Consecrated” fit in to 1st Thessalonians Chapter 4 and Chapter 5:9?

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KEY VERSE

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NKJV)

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Related Verses

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us **(The Saints)** from the wrath to come. (Emphasis Mine)

Philippians 4:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Jude 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

Revelation 15:3 (NKJV)

³ They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ For God did not appoint us **(The Set apart or Scantified ones... Saints)** to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (Emphasis Mine)