

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

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28

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A SAINT?

by Jim Stauffer

The world has become convinced sainthood is something granted to someone chosen by men who are in authority in the church based on an exceptional demonstration of faith and loyalty under extreme duress in the service of God. All of that is true except for the part where they are chosen by men in authority in the church.

Listen to whom the apostle calls saints in this passage, *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: (1 Corinthians 1:2)*. These saints are the Christians who needed some correction in their lives of service to the Lord and Paul provides it all through this epistle beginning in the very first chapter. Saint does not mean perfect. It means saved, redeemed though God's plan. A saint is not a perfect person. Rather he is a forgiven sinner.

The Greek word for saints is *hagios*, which means holy ones. Thayer's Lexicon of the New Testament offers these definitions: *properly reverend, worthy of veneration; of things which on account of some connection with God possess a certain distinction and claim to reverence, as places sacred to God which are not to be profaned - Exa. Acts 7:33* (Moses removing his sandals on Mt. Sinai) As Paul says to the Corinthians, they became saints by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul did this himself when he was taught by Ananias in Damascus. *'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'* (Acts 22:16)

The holy ones of Corinth and the apostle Paul and

every other Christian has called on the name of the Lord in response to His call to us through the Gospel (**Matthew 11:28-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:14**). The Scriptures tell us that the holiness or righteousness the Christian possesses comes from God through the redemption He provides through the blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary (**1 Peter 1:18,19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**).

The Scriptures further tell us the saints are in God's household (**Ephesians 2:19**), will receive the inheritance for the saved (**Ephesians 1:13,14,18; Colossians 1:12**), will be with Jesus as He is glorified when He comes in judgment of the evil ones (**2 Thessalonians 1:10**), and they will rest from their labors (**Revelation 14:12,13**).

The Scriptures, the very word of God tells us just who the saints are and how they became such. It is not in the power of the men of the church to determine, but rather God Who adds us to the body of Christ, the church when we call on His name (**Acts 2:47**). So the appropriate answer to the question, "Would you Like to be a Saint", is an unequivocal yes! And the Bible is clear in teaching us how to be a saint and spend eternity with our Lord and Savior.

Fire Insurance, or a Savings Account? *Jefferson David Tant*

Recently we paid our insurance premium. It is not a pleasant matter, for there are many things I would rather do with the money. Yet, I recognize the necessity of protection through adequate coverage by insurance. So out comes the checkbook and the check is grudgingly written. There! It's done! Now we

don't have to give any thought to that until next time the premium is due.

Sound familiar to you? Have you had the same problem with respect to auto, homeowner's or hospitalization insurance, etc.? Probably so, if you are normal. And while we all recognize and accept this attitude as perfectly normal, how *tragic* that so many have the very same attitude towards their religion.

I wonder if many "Christians" do not look upon whatever obligations they have to the Lord as just payments to keep their policy in force that protects them from the fires of hell. When they come to assemble with God's children, it is because they feel they have to—it is one of the stipulations of their policy. They do not come out of love for the Lord and his people, nor out of gladness in offering up worship. They just come, and you can tell the reason for their coming by the look on their faces during the service.

When they give unto the Lord (if they give at all), it is not out of thankfulness for all the Lord has given to us, nor is there cheer at the thought of the money going for the support of the gospel proclaimed to the lost. It is simply a more tangible form of policy payment. But there! It's done! And now, no more worry about these matters until the next time he or she comes to the assembly. There are things of the world they would rather be doing, and they are glad to get back to them, sometimes even thinking of the extra items they could buy with the money they have given to the Lord. But some have another and altogether different attitude.

Not only did I pay my insurance premium, but I also put a few dollars in my savings account. True, it cost me something, but I enjoyed it. There is a pleasure in watching those few dollars being put to use each week, and in contemplating the happiness the "finished product" will bring. You see I'll get all that back (with interest), and it will make every bit of scraping and sacrificing worthwhile. It'll really mean something to me.

And so many likewise regard their service to God. Yes, it takes time, money and effort. But what a pleasure to give these things to God, who has given so much to us. And what a terrific interest rate, because these are *"laying up in store...a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed"* (I Tim. 6:19). Thus, these are actually looking for *more* ways that

they might invest in their eternal savings account, and they certainly don't begrudge one single thing they put aside.

Which is it for you? An insurance policy or a savings account? Changing from the "insurance" outlook to the "savings" outlook can make an unbelievable difference in your life. If you haven't tried it, why don't you do so before you find out, too late, that God has never promised to honor the conception of "insurance policies" that so many have.

A House Not Made With Hands

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens
(2 Corinthians 5:1)

As I think about having a building from God, a house not made with hands, the words of Jesus from **John 14:1-2** begin to swell within my heart, *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."* My friends, as faithful children of God, we have the blessing of a hope that goes beyond this earthly life with all of its burdens and groanings **(2 Cor. 5:2)**.

Having heard **(Rom. 10:13-17)**, believed **(John 3:35-36, Mark 16:16)**, repented **(Luke 3:3-5)**, confessed **(Rom. 10:9-10)**, been baptized **(Acts 2:38, 22:16)**, and now living for and with the Lord **(Gal. 2:20, Rev. 2:10)**, we have the priceless blessing of having been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and have been transferred to the kingdom of God's beloved Son **(Col. 1:12-14)**. We should be impressed and our hearts filled with praise and thanksgiving when we consider the love God and his Son have for us **(1 John 3:1-3, John 3:16. Rom. 5:8-9)**.

For a moment, think back to what Paul tells us in **2 Cor. 5:1**, *"we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands."* Do you hear what Paul says? He doesn't say maybe we have that building, or hoping its true or just have to wait and see. He says emphatically, We Know! There are no ifs, ands or maybes. I, for one, am convinced that if with an unfeigned love we obey the Lord **(Rom. 5:8-9)**, if we truly seek things above and set our mind on things

above, not on things that are on earth (**Col. 3:1-2**, **Matt. 6:19-21**), if we always seek first the kingdom of God (**Matt. 6:33**), if we present our bodies a living sacrifice, not conforming to this world (**Rom. 12:1-2**), if we fill our hearts with God's word, let him mold our lives and guide us every step of the way, then we can with great confidence say, I Know!

I love all those grand old songs we sing about heaven. One of them says, "There's a wonderful place we call home, 'Tis a city of glory divine, It is built in the garden of rest, And that beautiful home shall be mine." It is through the eye of faith that I can see that wonderful city of God in the distance and with all my heart I believe that one day it will be my dwelling place. How about you?

I end this message with one of my favorite passages, *"Therefore, being always of good courage and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to him"* (**2 Cor. 5:6-9**).

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PREACHING ABOUT BAPTISM

Dennis Abernathy

No subject has been discussed and debated more than baptism. Is it essential to salvation or is it not? Is baptism immersion, sprinkling, or simply pouring water on one? Are infants to be baptized? Is one to be baptized because he is saved, or in order to be saved? The questions are almost endless. Therefore, many just decide the subject of baptism is too controversial, and they do not preach or teach on the subject at all.

For example, let me tell you a little story. Preachers in a small town proposed a meeting in which all the preachers would take alternate turns to preach. A certain gospel preacher, had not been consulted on the arrangement, so he called the other preachers to request his turn to preach. He was informed that an agreement had been made that the subject of baptism would not be mentioned—that they had agreed to preach Christ and say nothing about baptism. The

preacher accepted the conditions and agreed to preach without mentioning the word baptism. It was agreed, and he announced in advance his subject was "What Must I do to be Saved."

People came from all over to hear him preach. He preached with such animation and eloquence on salvation, and the love of God, that brought salvation to man through Jesus Christ. When he reached the point of the question—What must I do to be saved? he turned to **Mark 16: 15-16** and read the words of Christ: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and doeth that thing I promised not to mention, shall be saved."* He then read **Acts 2: 38**: *"Repent, and do that thing I promised not to mention, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."* And he proceeded to read every verse in the New Testament on baptism, and called it that thing I promised not to mention!

Isn't it strange how many people and preachers will detour around such a plain and positive command of Jesus and His apostles; so simple to be understood and performed, so easy to accept and obey, and so much emphasized in the New Testament? What about you, my friend? Would you like to study this biblical subject in order to understand what the New Testament says about it?

We would love to study the Bible with any and all who might have interest in what the Creator has spoken to His creation.

Many, in fact nearly all folks, speak of going to heaven when this life is over. Yet, so few ever consult the One Who is granting heaven as a reward to find out the qualifications for entrance.

and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

(2 Thessalonians 1:7–9)

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Psalm 1:1 ~ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. ~ 9:00 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. ~ 10:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. ~ 7:00 Bible Study & Worship
- **Visitors welcome**
- **We conduct in home Bible Studies**
- **We offer Correspondence Courses**

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Bill Miller

Troy Armstrong

*"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:"*

Philippians 1:1

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA
BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN BOYER,
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AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY 7 PM - JIM STAUFFER

MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAY SERMON: THE KING RULES

ALL



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6
- **Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30
- **Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10
- **Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- **Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10