CELEBRATE SAINTHOOD

God has *called* and *chosen* me to be one of His saints.

KEY POINTS

- "Saint": The collective body of those who are righteous in God's sight (Collins English Dictionary).
- The word "saint" is used to describe the body of believers who have committed their lives to Christ through repentance, have received God's gift of the Holy Spirit and have been baptized in Jesus' name.
- We understand that the only way we receive salvation and become saints is through the enabling, empowering, choosing and calling of God (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- This is not to hold the Calvinistic view that only those 'predestined' to salvation can receive it, but rather to understand that ALL of humanity has been predestined to be saints!
- This high calling of God in Christ Jesus is that we should be partakers in His suffering temporarily, so that we can be partakers in His exaltation eternally (2 Timothy 2:12).
- Therefore, having been called and chosen for sainthood, what are our duties, responsibilities and privileges?

1. *To give thanks and praise to God for choosing us!* The privilege we have of becoming part of God's family—His body, His bride, His church—is awe inspiring and totally undeserved. Our thanksgiving to Him should flow like a river! The Apostle Peter reminds us:
   > … you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
2. *To rejoice together and strengthen each other in fellowship*. We do this anywhere, at any time. We need to make it our habit and commitment to meet with our brothers and sisters whenever we have the opportunity. Church services, conferences, camps and social gatherings are all an important part of knitting us together with our brethren. (See Hebrews 10:22-25; Acts 2:42, 46.)
3. *To show others the way of Christ—especially our own children!* We are designed by God to reproduce, both naturally and spiritually. The Lord has given us the privilege and responsibility to be 'laborers together with Him' in spreading the good news of the gospel. (See Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:20.)
4. *To support the work of God with our tithes and offerings.* Money is probably the most important indicator of what is important in our lives. "Just follow the money trail."

KEY SCRIPTURES:
1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Hebrews 10:22-25; Acts 2:42,46, 17:11-12; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Luke 6:38

Jesus understood this, which is why He sat at the Treasury watching what people were putting in. Where your money goes will tell you how important something is to you. Jesus is still sitting at the Treasury, observing what you put in. (See Mark 12:41-44.)

5. *Most importantly, to meet with God daily in prayer and Bible study (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 17:11)*. Our faith and understanding of the things of God grows dramatically as we spend time in His word. In His Word, God reveals His thinking, His plan and purpose, His undying love, His promises for our present and our future. This is how God speaks to us and introduces us to the wonders of His world!

- How do you view Christianity? Is it your job, your hobby, your pastime, or your calling?
- Let us celebrate our calling, for God has called and chosen us to be one of His saints.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

The duties, responsibilities and privileges of being called and chosen for sainthood include:

1. *Give thanks and praise to God for choosing us.* Take time to praise God and to thank Him for calling and choosing you for sainthood.
2. *Rejoice together and strengthen each other.* Testify to each other of a victory/miracle God made possible in your life—whether it occurred this week or many years ago.
3. *Show others the way of Christ, especially your own children.* Are there family members or people close to you that you care about and who are unsaved? Take the time to pray yet again for their salvation. Don't get weary!
4. *Support the work of God with your tithes and offerings.* When money gets tights, do you write God an I.O.U.? Do you eventually keep your promise or does the amount owed keep growing? What changes can be made, so that you are able to give tithes/offerings?
5. *Meet with God.* What are some of the Bible verses/passages that recently captured your attention? What is it/are they saying to you? Take some time to meet with God in prayer.

Prayer Time

"I will be what you called me to be
I'll say Yes, Lord, I agree
My desire, passionately
Is to be what you called me to be
That's what I'll be." Amen.

Start-up: Is your current place of employment your "dream job"? If "yes", what made you choose this career? If "no", where would you rather be?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline