

Saints By Calling

The gospel of Christ calls all men to turn to the Lord. Believers call on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved. And disciples of Christ become “saints by calling” because they “have been sanctified in Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:2). Salvation and sanctification are intricately connected principles in Christ (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14). A Christian cannot have the one without the other.

The church in Corinth was composed of members who, upon hearing the preaching of the gospel, believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8). “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;...” (Mark 16:16). A believer calls on the name of Jesus for salvation by being baptized to wash away his sins, and all who are being saved are then added to the Lord’s church (cf. Acts 2:47; 22:16).

Contrasting the past lives of the Corinthians with their fellowship in Christ, Paul reminded, “...But you were washed; but you were sanctified; but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...” (1 Corinthians 6:11). The saved are saints. The saved body of Christ is His sanctified body. Cleansed by the blood of the Savior, Christians are separated out from sin and darkness and set apart in the kingdom and priesthood of Christ.

Christians are exhorted: “...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). Disciples have been called to a calling. This holy calling is not only the heavenly invitation unto eternal redemption, but also, it’s the spiritual vocation and profession in the Son of God.

The nature of this calling of God’s saints is holiness. Christians are saints by calling because they become holy ones living holy (cf. 1 Peter 1:14-16). The predestined purpose of the chosen in Christ is that they are to be holy and blameless (cf. Ephesians 1:4). In Christ Christians have learned to put off the old corrupt self with its lusts and to put on the new man “created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:22, 24). Thus, this admonition: “... beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).