God’s Saints
Col. 1:2,12,26

Introduction:
A. Colossians addressed to “the saints and faithful brethren”.
   1. HAGIOS translated “saints” 62 times, “holy” 161 times.
   2. Kindred words: “sanctify” (to set apart), “sanctuary (set-apart place)”.
   3. Not made saints after death.
      a. N.T. churches made up of saints. (v. 2; cf. 1 Cor. 1:2, Phil. 1:1)
   4. Not perfect people (cf. “He is no saint”)
B. Colossians 1 points out several distinctions that set saints apart from rest of humanity.

Discussion:

II. Their Relationship Sets Them Apart. -- “His Saints”. (v. 26).
   A. “God’s own possession”. (ASV) - “own special people” (NKJV). (1 Pet. 2:9).
   B. Have been set apart into:
      1. Christ. (v. 2; cf. Phil. 1:1).
         a. Into whom were baptized. (Rom. 6:3).
         b. In whom have redemption. (v. 14; cf. 1 Cor. 6:19; Tit. 2:14).
         d. By whom are reconciled (fellowship). (v. 22; cf. 1 John 1:7; 2:1).
      2. Light - kingdom (vv. 12-13) or church. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:2).

III. Their Thinking Sets Them Apart. -- “Once were alienated...in your mind” (v. 21).
   A. Mind now on things above. (Col. 3:1,2)
   B. Thoughts now God’s thoughts. (cf. Isa. 55:6-7).
   D. View of things different from world’s view.
      1. The gospel. (1 Cor. 1:18).
      2. Life-style. (1 Pet. 4:4).

IV. Their Works Set Them Apart. -- “Once were alienated... by wicked works” (v. 21).
   A. No longer live as sons of disobedience. (Col. 3:5-17).
   B. Behave as “becometh saints.” (Eph. 5:3; Rom. 16:2)

V. Their Hope Sets Them Apart. -- “The hope of the gospel” (v. 23).
   A. Not shared by others. (1 Thess. 4:13).
   B. Based on facts of gospel -- D.B.R. of Christ (1 Thess 4:14; 1 Cor. 15:1-9, 19-20; 1 Pet. 1:3,4).
   C. Based on obeying the truth. (1 Pet. 1:21-25)
   D. Can give a reason for it - not wishful thinking (1 Pet. 3:15).

Conclusion:
A. Are you one of God’s Saints?
B. Are you thinking, acting, and hoping as is fitting for saints?