

## 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)
  - b. Paul put saints in prison. (Acts 26:10).
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).
  - c. In whom have forgiveness. (v. 14; cf. Acts 2:38).
  - 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).
- C. Hearts purified by faith and obedience. (Acts 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:22).
- 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?