

A Saint Is a Saint

Isn't it curious how some terms used in the Bible have changed in meaning? "Saint" is one such word. According to a modern dictionary the definition is: "A person considered holy and worthy of public veneration, esp. one who has been canonized" (American Heritage Dictionary). A person must pass a series of tests after death in order to even be considered for this designation by some.

The Bible meaning of "saint" is quite different. It is applied to all Christians. In Ephesians 1:1 Paul addresses the faithful in Christ Jesus as "saints." Nowhere in that letter do I find an elite group to whom the term is directed.

There seems to be a presumption here that after death some will be able to influence Jesus or the Father to hear our prayers. There is no indication of this in the scripture. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col 3:17 (NKJV)). Why would I want to insult Jesus by insinuating that He can't do the job? We don't need lobbyists in Heaven.

- Charlie Gamble preaches for the Fort Recovery church of Christ in Ft. Recovery, OH.



The Worker

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Inconvenient!

Suppose we changed our meeting time to 3 AM on Sundays. While we might not like it, many of us would be here despite the inconvenience. Now, relax! There are no plans to change the meeting time! It brings up the question, though: How willing are you to be inconvenienced in your service to God?

Antonius Felix, governor of Judea, didn't like what he was hearing as Paul was instructing him in the gospel. "Go away for now," Felix said. "When I have a convenient time, I will call for you" (Acts 24:25). As far as the record goes, that convenient time never came. The governor wasn't much interested in becoming a Christian anyway; mostly he was hoping Paul would pay a bribe.

Unlike Felix, Christians are interested in hearing and doing the will of God. (Or we're supposed to be, anyway.) Are you willing to be inconvenienced for the Lord? Let's be specific: Are you willing to make a visit instead of watching your favorite TV program? Or does that visit have to wait until you have "spare time"? Would you reschedule a vacation if it conflicted with a Gospel Meeting? Would you attend services rather than getting an early start on that business trip? In short, are you willing to put God (not your convenience) first?

The early Christians certainly did not practice a religion of convenience! How convenient was it to be beaten or imprisoned for proclaiming the gospel? Was walking all over the country to tell people about Jesus convenient? And if we can believe the historical records, the early Christians often met around sunrise on the first day of the week since that was the only time that the slaves could attend. No doubt it would have been more convenient for everyone, especially the slaves, just to stay home to get a little extra sleep.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus left the splendor of Heaven to come to this earth, taking upon Himself a body of human flesh. What if He had said, "No, it just isn't convenient for Me right now." Think of the times Jesus spent all day teaching and healing, only to spend all night in prayer. Not exactly convenient, wouldn't you say? And where would we be if, when His crucifixion was imminent, Jesus had backed out because it wasn't convenient?

There is nothing wrong with accommodating convenience where we can. But brethren, God has gone to a great deal of trouble for us! May it never be that we would insult Him by serving Him only when it is convenient.

- Joe Slater serves as minister of the Church of Christ in Justin, TX.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: To Be Announced

Sunday Evening: To Be Announced

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Joe Sweeney
Scripture Ethan Welch
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Irvin Williams
Attendant Rudy Ayala
Attendant Ryan Irwin
Closing Prayer Jerry Casey

PM Service

Song Leader Rick Martin
Bible Reading Harold Tincher
Selection 33
Prayer Brandon Slotman
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer John Keaton
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Jr
Lord's Supper Clint Smith Sr
Offering Greg Blanton
Usher Art Patrick
Count Offering Hank Tincher
Assist Count Harold Tincher

Last Sunday

Offering \$3,730
Attendance 82

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet October 17th at 6:30 pm; the meal theme is Italian.

A youth devotional is scheduled for Thursday October 20th at 6:30pm at the Slotman's home for a bonfire.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 21st thru the 23rd at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday with regular class and worship times on Sunday. The speaker is Jack Honeycutt. The lesson titles: "The Origin and Development of Islam," "The Real Agenda," "Bible vs. Quran," "Jesus vs. Muhammad." Flyers are available in the foyer.

The Annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Friday October 28th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the building. Please plan to participate. Each year we have been able to reach over 100 youth and their families and spread the Good News through this event. See Ashley or Stephanie with questions.

Sunday October 30th will be the next 5th Sunday special contribution and has been designated by the elders as "Orphans Sunday". The elders prayerfully challenge the congregation with the goal of doubling our regular weekly contribution.

A sermon request form is available in the foyer. Eric asks that you complete and return to him as soon as possible. Your requests will be used as sermon topics in 2017. Please take copies for your entire family including children. Remember no question is dumb if asked sincerely.

Congratulations to the following children who completed their worship notes and earned a prize: Riley, Nathaniel, Bailey and Hannah

The Building Committee thanks all who came to the work day at the building last Saturday. We completed much needed attention to the exterior landscaping. Pruning, trimming, weeding and racking leaves. We had great fellowship while working for the Lord's Church.

A Home Is More Than Bricks...

- It's a place where your child gains his concept of God.
- It's a place where your daughter learns how to be a wife and mother.
- It's a place where your son learns how to be a husband and father.
- It's a place where going the second mile can pay big dividends.
- It's a place where the Christian graces can be added by practice.
- It's a place where the reality of your Christianity is tested.
- It's a place where happiness can exist if every family member is a committed Christian.

- Siwell Rd. church of Christ; via The Encourager, the weekly bulletin for the Calvert City church of Christ, Calvert City, KY.