

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## Serious Saints

(Mt 10:37-39)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
  - a. We have looked at...
    - i. Stinky Shepherds
    - ii. Dirty Deacons
    - iii. Puny Preachers
  - b. Today we look at "Serious Saints."
3. I want everyone to think back to your first experiences with the church.
  - a. For some it was good.
  - b. For some it was not good.
  - c. For some it was indifferent.
    - i. Everyone had some thought concerning it however.
4. Now I want everyone to think about what you consider the "perfect" congregation to act like.
  - a. There are no perfect congregations since they are made up men and women.
  - b. However we each have an idea of what we think the perfect congregation would look like and act like.
5. I hope that most of your thoughts concerning the how the congregation should be acting and looking like are based off of what we have been studying concerning church organization and church responsibilities.
  - a. We are going to finish up this set of lessons now on "Serious Saints."
  - b. Notice again how serious Christ said we must be to be His disciple.
    - i. **Mt 10:37-39** "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."<sup>1</sup>
6. With that as our background thought let us examine what the Word of God says about being saints for God.
  - a. It would be proper to first understand/define what a saint is considering all the different ideas that are out there. Notice some of the ideas out there.
    - i. Webster's defines saint as...
      1. "one officially recognized especially through canonization as preeminent for holiness" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
      2. "one of the spirits of the departed in heaven" (Ibid)
        - a. "Angel"
      3. "one of God's chosen and usually. Christian people" (Ibid)
      4. "one eminent for piety or virtue"

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<sup>1</sup> All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- b. Now look at the biblical idea of a saint.
  - i. "set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti (7). New York: Harper & Brothers.)
  - ii. "pertaining to being holy in the sense of prior moral qualities and possessing certain essentially divine qualities in contrast with what is human" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (744). New York: United Bible societies.)
    - 1. The idea here then is one set apart (made holy) by God (Christian).
- 7. So how do those that are set apart by God thus added by Him to His church (Ac 2:47) to act?
  - a. Let us now examine thusly.

## I. Saints Are Serious Students

### A. Daily Bible readers

- 1. **II Ti 2:15** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God..." (KJV)
- 2. **Ac 2:46** "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart"
- 3. **II Ti 4:3** "Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments."

### B. Daily Bible mediators

- 1. **Js 1:8** "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
- 2. **Ps 77:12** "I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds."
- 3. **Ph 4:8** "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

### C. Daily Bible studiers

- 1. Reading and thinking about the Bible is not the same as studying the Bible.
  - i. Studying the Bible means reading meditating and scrutinizing.
- 2. **Ac 17:11** "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."
- 3. **Ps 119:1-8** "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! 3 They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways. 4 You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently. 5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!"

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## II. Saints Need To Be Serious Communicators

### A. Daily prayers

1. **Lk 18:1** "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart"
2. **II Th 1:11** "Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power"
3. **Ro 12:12** "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (ESV)

### B. Thought provoking prayers

1. **Je 29:12-13** "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
2. **Ep 1:15-18** "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"

### C. Expectational prayer

1. **Ja 1:5-8** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."
2. **Mt 21:22** "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
3. **Mk 11:22-24** "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."
4. **He 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

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## III. Saints Need To Be Serious Givers

- A. Of time
  - 1. **Ja 1:27** "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
  - 2. **Ga 6:1** "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."
- B. Of money
  - 1. **I Co 16:2** "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."
  - 2. **II Co 9:6-7** "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."
- C. Of hope (in the future of the church)
  - 1. **Ps 33:17-22** "A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, 19 To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name. 22 Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You."
  - 2. **Pr 10:28** "The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish."
  - 3. **I Th 1:2-3** "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father"

## IV. Saints Need To Be Serious Organizers

- A. Of our life
  - 1. **Ps 92:12-15** "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, 15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."
  - 2. **Co 1:10** "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"
  - 3. **II Th 1:3** "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other"

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## CONCLUSION

1. As Christians develop and grow in the seriousness of being a saint they should take comfort in the most important thing about being a saint.
  - a. Being a saint leads to eternity with God.
2. So here is the question we must ask ourselves...are we each "serious saints?"
3. Invitation
  - a. God's Plan of Salvation
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**