

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – July 25, 2010

Sainthood!

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” Revelation 11:17- 19

Today the church celebrates the festival of St. James the Elder, Apostle. It is one of many “saints” days that mark the church calendar. The church on earth has often celebrated with thanksgiving to God, the service that Christian people have given to God and His people. We are thankful to God for their example and life that we might imitate their faith and like them, believing in Jesus Christ alone might have eternal life.

Many people have the wrong idea of what a saint truly is. They think that it is a person so holy in their life and actions that they have earned a special place in the kingdom of God. They alone should bear the title of “Saint.” This concept has even led some to talk of others as “saints” in a derogatory manner, as if they are not sinners. They accuse others of being “so good” that they believe that they are better than others. It is these kinds of things that grow out of a misconception about how one receive eternal life. It grows out of the belief that one gets eternal life on the basis of works rather than as the Scripture teaches that one is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

If we want to know what true sainthood is, then we need to know what the Bible teaches. It does not teach that sainthood is achieved through works. In actuality, the Bible equates sainthood with those who are believers. It does so because believers not only have the forgiveness of sins, but also the holiness of Christ, which He has earned for us through His perfect life and sacrificial death. Yes, that makes us the saints of God! Christ has forgiven our sins through the Gospel and He has exchanged our

sinfulness for His righteousness. And although the sinful flesh veils this righteousness to the world, nevertheless, we believe God's word and we rejoice to be part of "the communion of saints."

There is a day coming when the Lord Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. It is a day of which we ought not be afraid. Those who have spurned the Gospel and rejected the Spirit of Grace will be consigned to suffer the wrath of God for eternity. However, those who believe in Christ will rejoice that in body and soul they shall live eternally in the presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are the holy people of God...His saints! Today, as we give thanks to God for the life and service of St. James, we pray that God would use our lives in a manner that gives God the glory and serves the purpose of expanding His kingdom.

- Remember: You are God's holy people. Pray that God would help you to know His will and live holy lives according to it.
- Remember: Sharing the Gospel with others is holy work. Rejoice when you are able to bring the good news of salvation to those lost in the darkness and horror of sin.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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