

How Saints Are Made

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Ephesians 1:1-2

October 8, 2023

Snap shot:

Jesus develops saints through the ongoing ministry of the Gospel.

I. How the saints hear (1:1a)

II. How the saints live (1:1b)

III. How the saints persevere (1:2)

Checking in

Anything you want to share from your time in the Word this week?

How can the group be praying for/with you?

What struggles would you like the group to be praying for with you?

Prayer focus for October

As a group and individually, please pray faithfully that HCC would become a house of prayer.

Studying

Point 1: How the saints hear (1:1a)

READ: Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:1-3; Ephesians 2:20; 3:4-6; 4:11; Acts 2:42

REFLECT: Why is it important that Paul establishes himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ? What do you learn about Apostles in the passages above? What does Paul mean by “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets?”

RESPOND: What would it look like for you to submit yourself to the Apostles teachings like the church in Acts 2:42? How does submission communicate more than just reading and knowledge? What are specific things you could do to move beyond “head knowledge”?

PRAY: Spend time praising the Lord for his will to reveal His mysterious will through Paul. Ask for help understanding his epistle to the Ephesians and for His Spirit to apply it to your life and our church.

Point 2: How the saints live (1:1b)

READ: Ephesians 1:1; Hebrews 3:1-6; Revelation 2:10

REFLECT: What did it mean for Moses to be faithful? How was Jesus faithful? What do these passages communicate about our faithfulness? What is the significance of Paul's phrasing, "faithful in Christ Jesus"?

RESPOND: Why is it hard to think of yourself as a saint (literally a holy one)? What does this designation tell you about your identity? How does doubting who you are in Christ hinder your faithfulness?

PRAY: Praise the Lord for the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Ask for forgiveness for the times you have doubted Christ's work that makes you holy by doubting your identity as a saint. Pray that you would become more and more faithful in Christ.

Point 3: How the saints persevere (1:2)

READ: 1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 15:13

REFLECT: How do these passages help us understand that grace and peace from the Lord help us to live out the Christian life? What are ways the Lord continues to give us grace? How does He bring peace?

RESPOND: What would it look like for you to bless someone like Paul does the Ephesians in verse two? How could you turn this blessing into a prayer for the church? For your family?

PRAY: Pray that the Lord would continue blessing us with His grace and peace so that we would grow up in Christ and display His Kingdom by His power.

Memorizing

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:2).

Preparing for next week

Read: Ephesians 1

Ask: questions of the text

Pray: through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.