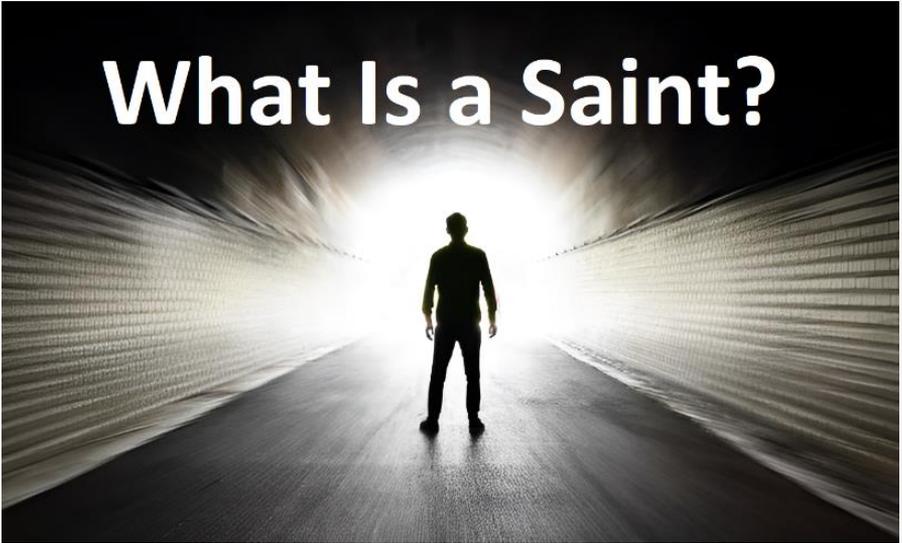


All Saints Day (observed) – 2023

Saturday, 11/4 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/5 at 9:00

What Is a Saint?



Text: **The Apostles' Creed**; Bible Quotes: **NAS 1995**

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, we are observing All Saints Day – *which can be confusing*, so let me explain:

- I care about what the Bible says, *not what people say*.
- The term, “**saints**” appears in the NAS Bible 67 times.
- Saints, *according to the Bible*, are people who “**are faithful in Christ Jesus**” (Eph. 1:1), *which means they believe in Jesus as their Savior*. Furthermore, all such people who believe in Him *also live for Him*.
- What people can rightly be referred to as saints?
 - All who **were** believing in Jesus when they died – *and are now with God*.
 - All who **are** living on earth now – *and believing in Jesus as their Savior and Lord*.

- How does a person become a saint? The Holy Spirit works through baptism (Tit. 3:5-7) and God's word (1 Pet. 1:23) to give faith *by which a person trusts in Jesus*.
- How does a person continue as a saint? As he cooperates with the Holy Spirit by learning and living God's word; then the Holy Spirit keeps him in Christ.
- Do saints in heaven hear and answer our prayers? No; **two reasons:** ♣ Jesus is *the one mediator between God and men* (1 Tim. 2:5) and ♣ to hear and answer a prayer is *a God-thing*, people have no such abilities.

Now, *in the rest of this sermon*, we focus on the Apostles' Creed as we keep asking the question: **What Is a Saint?**

1. **A Person Made by God the Father: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.** // God the Father designed all things, then He worked through God the Son to create all things (John 1:3) – *including you, and me, and the people we love*. Which ones are saints? Those with us now who trust in Jesus and those who have died with their trust in Jesus.
2. **A Person Redeemed by God the Son: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
 - a. Who is Jesus? He is God's only Son, ♣ sent by God the Father at the appointed time and ♣ conceived by the

Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary – *which is when the Son of God put on human flesh for our eternal benefit.*

- b. What did Jesus do? He lived without sin; then, *when Pilate was the Roman governor*, Jesus was †arrested, †condemned, and †crucified. Then, *while He was hanging between earth and heaven*, God the Father crushed Him with ☹our sins and ☹His wrath against our sins. Then Jesus laid down His life.
- c. What happened when He died? His soul and spirit immediately went to paradise, while His body was entombed.
- d. What happened on Easter Sunday? God the Father raised Jesus to life, *reuniting His body, soul, and spirit*. Then Jesus descended into hell to proclaim His victory over sin and death. Then Jesus showed Himself alive to certain people.
- e. What happened 40 days later? Jesus ascended into heaven and is now ruling over all things for the good of those who are saints ([Eph. 1:22-23](#)), *who are trusting in Him and living for Him*.
- f. What is yet to happen? At the appointed time ([Acts 17:30-31](#)), ✦Jesus will return, ✦all people will be put back together – *body, soul, and spirit*, and ✦the final judgment ([Rev. 20:11-15](#)) will take place. Jesus will identify ☺who continued to know Him and ☹who went the way of the world. Then, ➡those who know Him will be welcome into eternal bliss, while ➡the others will be sent to eternal torment.
 - i. When we know Jesus: Let us live with peace and joy!

- ii. When we think about our loved ones who have died in Jesus: Let us **believe** they are in paradise, **realize** the separation is temporary, and **look forward** to an amazing eternity.

3. **A Person Made Holy by God the Holy Spirit: I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

// Those words apply to all who know Jesus:

- a. They have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – *to assure them, guide them, and empower them.*
- b. They are members of the holy Christian Church, which include all saints – *both in heaven and on earth.*
- c. They have received the forgiveness of their sins.
- d. Their bodies will be raised to life when Jesus returns.
- e. In their bodies, souls, and spirits, *they will forever enjoy the awesome blessings of our Great God* – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, help us to understand and rejoice that we are saints in Your sight through Jesus. Then, *as we remember our loved ones who have died*, help us to know they died in Jesus and give us peace. Finally, *as we think about others who do not currently know Jesus*, help us to share Your life-changing word with them!

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