Faithful Saints

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 10th, 2022

Text: Colossians 1:1-12

### Intro

1. A “Sound church” indicates the relationship of the church with God.
	1. ***“Sound”:*** “Normal and healthy; not weak, diseased, or impaired; firm, safe, secure, based on truth or valid reasoning; accurate, reliable, sensible; morally strong; honest, honorable, loyal.” (Webster's)
	2. ***“Sound”:*** *hugiainō [hoog-ee-ah'ee-no] (G5198):* “To have sound health, that is, be well (in body); figuratively to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine): be in health, (be safe and) sound, (be) whole (-some).” (Strong’s)
2. A sound church is one that:
	1. Seeks Scriptural Organization – *Phil. 1:1 (Elders & deacons)*
	2. The members know their abilities and use them – *Eph. 4:16*
	3. Demands sound preaching – *II Tim. 4:2, 5*
	4. Is pure – *I Jn. 3:3*
	5. Is unified – *Phil. 2:1-2*
	6. Is NOT content – *Phil. 3:13-14 (Not content with staying where we are but ever pressing on to our goal)*
	7. Teaches the “Doctrine of Christ” – *II Jn. 9*
3. A church *(the “called out”)* will only be as sound as its members *(body of Christ – Col. 1:18):*
	1. Those “faithful unto death” will be rewarded – Rev. 2:10
4. ***What does it take to be counted as faithful?***
5. The Letter to the Colossians says a lot about what it means to be sound/faithful:
	1. Colossians 1:2-12: The saints at Colossae were faithful to God (Col. 1:2).
6. What were the characteristics of these faithful brethren?

#### Saints (Colossians 1:2)

* 1. Old Testament concept:
		1. Saint *(G40 hagios: Holy ones, sacred, morally blameless, consecrated)*
		2. God’s people were different!
			1. II Cor. 6:17: Quotes from *Is. 52:11 & Ezek. 20:34* – Not encouraging isolation from unbelievers, but discouraging compromise with their sins.
		3. Reason the prophets demanded so much of them:
			1. I Pet. 1:14-16: Quotes *Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7* – Holy is to be set apart, consecrated or dedicated to a specific purpose.
		4. God’s people have always been called to be separate!
	2. As the Israelites were to be, so are saints to be dedicated totally to God & separated totally from the sin of this world.
		1. Col. 3:5: As we were dead in our sins, we must be dead to sin *(Separate).*
		2. Eph. 5:3-5: We are to avoid life that is unbecoming to a saint.
	3. To be a “Saint” requires us to obey the gospel and then live separately from the world while living in the world!

#### Thirst for Knowledge (Colossians 1:9)

* 1. Paul recognized their hunger and thirst after righteousness and prayed they would get it.
	2. Jesus said those who do so will be blessed (Mt. 5:6)
		1. Psalm 42:1-2: The sons of Korah wrote, “My soul pants & thirsts for God.”
		2. Eph. 3:1-5: Those who do so can understand the gospel.
		3. Col. 2:2-3: Treasures of wisdom are hidden in Christ.
	3. May we have that same quest for the knowledge of Jesus Christ!

#### Walk Worthy of the Lord (Colossians 1:10)

* 1. Be pleasing to the Lord:
		1. Heb. 11:5: Enoch pleased God.
		2. Col. 2:6: We are to walk in Christ.
		3. Heb. 11:6: Without faith, it is impossible to please Him (II Cor. 5:9)!
	2. Bear Fruit:
		1. Lord’s people are spiritually productive.
		2. Jn. 15:8: Jesus’ illustration of the vine *(Vss. 1-8):* Bearing fruit is the evidence of being a disciple of Christ’s and brings glory to God!
		3. Gal. 5:22-25: The fruit we bear is spiritual and reflects how we live our lives.
		4. *<Jn. 15:2-6 & Gal. 5:19-21: Branches of bad fruit will be burned up.>*
	3. Increase in the knowledge of God:
		1. II Pet. 3:17-18: To not be carried away by false doctrine, we are to grow in His knowledge! *(Eph. 4:14-16)*
		2. Heb. 5:12: We should be able to teach others!
	4. To walk worthily requires humility, gentleness, patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, diligence to preserve unity of the Spirit in bond of peace *(Eph. 4:2-3).*
	5. We are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus – Be careful how you walk!

#### Steadfast (Colossians 1:11)

* 1. They have a knowledge of God that results in patience and longsuffering.
	2. Suffer with joy (Produces endurance!):
		1. Christians don’t have to endure hardships with stoic acceptance!
		2. Joy over victory of a faith that stands the test of the fire! (James 1:2-3)
	3. Patience & steadfastness are traits of the faithful!
		1. Col. 1:23; 2:7: Call to steadfastness – Faith will produce steadfastness!
		2. Col. 2:4-5: Challenge of false teaching – Faith must be grounded in Christ!
		3. I Cor. 15:1-2: The gospel saves if we “hold fast” to its teaching! (15:3-4)
		4. I Cor. 15:58: Immovable, steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord!
	4. Testing of faith produces endurance so that one may be steadfast!

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#### Thankful (Colossians 1:12)

* 1. A Saint’s life is to be characterized by thankfulness:
		1. *Col. 1:3:* Paul gave thanks.
		2. *Col. 1:12:* Give thanks unto the Father.
		3. Col. 2:7: Abound in thanksgiving (KJV) – Not with the turkey and fixings, but as NASU reads, “overflowing with gratitude.”
		4. Col. 3:15: Be thankful.
		5. Col. 3:17: In all that we do we are to give thanks to God through Jesus.
		6. Col. 4:2: Give thanks in prayer – our prayers should reflect our gratitude!
	2. Knowledge of Christ will strengthen our faith, and as our faith grows so will our hearts with thanksgiving as we realize all that He has done for us! *(Rom. 5:9; Gal. 1:4)*

## Conclusion

1. II Cor. 13:5: Examine yourself!
2. The saints at Colossae are a great example of what faithfulness looks like!
	1. Are you:
		1. A Saint? (Holy – separate from the sins of the world) – Col. 1:2
		2. Thirsting for knowledge? – Col. 1:9
		3. Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord? – Col. 1:10
		4. Steadfast in your faith? – Col. 1:11
		5. Thankful? – Col. 1:12
3. Are we the committed, dedicated people God wants us to be?!
4. If you are not a Christian, a saint, you need to be! Repent and be baptized (obey the gospel)!
5. If a Christian in sin, don’t wait till it’s too late! Repent!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!