

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 ESV

What Does the Life of a Saved Person Look Like?

Sunday, November 2 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, November 3 at 7 PM

All Saints Day Observed – 2014

NEXT Sunday: 110th Anniversary! Service at 10; Potluck at 11:30

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we are observing All Saints Day, so what are saints? *They are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior! How do we know that is true?* Because the apostle Paul addressed the Christians living in Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae as SAINTS! Does that mean that such people were ♦*without sin* or ♦*lived extraordinary Christian lives*? No! *Saints are sinners* who are †sorry for their sins and †trust in Jesus alone as their Savior!

Therefore, today, *as we observe All Saints Day*, we remember various people who died in Christ. On one hand we miss them, but, *on the other hand – for all who die in Christ*, we know they are with the Lord! Think about one of the men crucified with Jesus: He expressed his faith by saying to Jesus, “*remember me when you come into your kingdom.* [Then Jesus answered:] *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*” (Luke 23:42-43 ESV)

So what about saints as they live on earth? They → believe the Bible, → trust in Jesus, and → are powered by the Holy Spirit to follow Gods’ Word! So what does the life of a saved person (*or a saint*) look like? Some answers are in today’s sermon text from 1 Thessalonians 4: ¹ **Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received**

from us how you ought [δεῖ - literally, how it is necessary] to walk [to live, to conduct yourself] and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² **For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.** // So he said: keep doing what you are doing *more and more!* Also: the instructions we gave you are *from the Lord Jesus!*

1. **...He Flees From Sexual Immorality:** Not to be saved, *but because he is saved through Jesus!*
 - a. ³ **For this is the will of God, your sanctification** [the One who has made you holy in His sight through Jesus]: Right now, *through Jesus*, we are saints in God’s sight; then, as God’s children, *we are called to grow in living God-pleasing lives!*
 - i. **that you abstain from sexual immorality;** // See God’s explanation for the proper use of sex in [1 Corinthians 7:1-5](#).
 - ii. ⁴ **that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;** // Even though unbelievers live **uncontrolled** and **unholy** lives, *we are called to glorify God in our bodies* ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)).
 - iii. ⁶ **that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.** // When someone has sex with a married person—*that is against the spouse*. When unmarried people have

sex—that is against the parents. In both cases, the sin is against the Almighty God; He will take vengeance upon all who do not repent (see the “Sex OUTSIDE of Marriage” brochure for more information).

- b. ⁷ **For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.** ⁸ **Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.** // God ♦made us, ♦sustains us, ♦gave His Son to save us, ♦gave His Spirit to live in us, and ♦has promised us eternal life; so how could we ever disregard His Word?
2. **...He Shows Love for Other Believers:** Not to be saved, but because he is saved through Jesus! ⁹ **Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,** ¹⁰ **for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more...** // These words are in chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians: ⁶ “...you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.” They believed in Jesus, which showed in their love for others! So Paul encouraged them to keep doing so *more and more!*

3. **...He Lives a God-Honoring Life:** Not to be saved, but because he is saved through Jesus! ¹¹ **and to aspire** [to seek, hope, aim, desire]
- a. **to live quietly,** // Not being loud and unbearable, but being a good neighbor!
 - b. **and to mind your own affairs,** // Not to gossip or be sinfully involved in the affairs of others, but to ♦have your own affairs in order and ♦be ready to help those in need!
 - c. **and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,** ¹² **so that you may walk** [live] **properly before outsiders** [unbelievers] **and be dependent on no one.** // God has blessed us with life and abilities!
 - i. For those who are unable to support themselves, we should rise up to help them!
 - ii. For us who are able to support ourselves, we should live and serve to support our needs, help those in need, and glorify God!

Conclusion: So we have talked about saints – *true believers!* Such people are *grateful for God’s gift of eternal life*, so they are →moved by the gospel, →powered by the Spirit, and →guided by the Word to honor God in their lives!

Finally, *as we think about those who have died in Christ*, let us be at peace: 😊their souls are in paradise and 😊their bodies will be raised when Jesus returns! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230