

Be Rich: Saints Alive

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1:1-14.

B. There are many names for Christians: brothers, disciples, those who follow the way and saints. (Acts 9)

C. Paul addresses Christians at Ephesus as saints.

D. Saints are living people.

E. A saint is one who is different because God has set him apart.

F. Paul gives us characteristics of a saint.

II. A saint is one who is different because he has trusted in God's Son.

A. Saints believe in God's Son.

B. Our faith is specific faith in a specific person. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Christ is Jesus prophetic title.

2. Jesus is his name meaning savior.

3. Lord is Jesus' title meaning God.

C. Paul called himself a saint.

D. A saint is one who has a spiritual address: in Christ Jesus.

E. Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" to talk about a new spiritual relationship.

III. A saint is one who has experienced God's grace.

A. Grace is God's favor to the undeserving without expectation of return.

B. We are rich because of God's grace.

C. We have everything we ever need if we have experienced God's grace.

IV. A saint has received God's peace.

A. Every human being is at war with God, with others and with himself.

B. Christ comes to give us peace. Jesus is our peace. (Ephesians 2:14; 6)

C. Jesus is sharing peace through us.

D. When we have peace with God, we have nothing else to fear.

V. A saint is one who has entered God's family.

A. This is to say that we share God's nature.

B. Because of this we share a special fellowship with other believers.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says they believe in goodness but not much more?

2. What does it mean to be "in Christ?"

3. How have you experienced God's grace? How would you describe it to others? Explain.
