

The Saints in Sin City (1 Corinthians 1:1-3)

I. Introduction

- A. How to trap an ermine
- B. How important is holiness to the church?
- C. An outline of the sermon and opening the Corinthian's mail

II. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 Exposition

- A. Who is the letter from? (vs 1)
 1. Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God (1 Cor 15:3-10)
 2. Sosthenes, our brother (Acts 18:12-18)
- B. The recipients of this letter (vs 2)
 1. The church of God at Corinth
 2. those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints
 - a. is *saint* really an appropriate term for the Corinthians?
 - b. *sainthood* links the church to God's holy nation (Lev 19:1,2, Ex 19:5-6)
 - c. the passive perfect participle of the verb *hagiadzo* indicates a **present condition** – this is how **sanctification** is most often discussed in the New Testament
 3. with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ ...
 - a. he wanted them (and us) to keep the universal church in mind
 - b. there is great glory in this idea (Malachi prophesied this)
- C. The blessings on those who are receiving this letter (vs 3)
 1. Grace to you and peace ...
 2. The blessings are uniquely directed to the church – those in Christ

WILL YOU BE IN THAT NUMBER, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHIN IN?

III. What is a saint? What does it look like to be sanctified or holy?

- A. What **holiness** is **not** (from 1 Corinthians)
 1. It is not mere *knowledge* (1 Cor 13:2)
 2. It is not mere *morality*
 3. It is not merely *asceticism* or *self-denial* (1 Cor 9:4-14, 13:3)
 4. It is not *legalism* (1 Cor 6:12)
 5. It is not merely having a *clear conscience* (1 Cor 4:3-4)
- B. What **holiness** is (from 1 Corinthians)
 1. It is *strangeness* or *peculiarity* (1 Cor 1:20-22, 26-29, 2:14)
 2. It is being *set apart* for God's special use (1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:16-20)
 3. It involves *purity* (1 Cor 5:6, 13, 6:9-11)
 4. It involves *temperance* and *self-denial* (1 Cor 9:27)
 5. It follows after love and brother affection (1 Cor 10:24, 13:5)
 6. It is longing for the resurrection (1 Cor 13:12, 15:58)
 7. More on holiness – in this life it is like gold mixed with dross

IV. Why is your sainthood important?

- A. Because God is holy and the holiness of the church is to reflect His holiness, so let us live as a holy people (1 Cor 5:7)