

As Becomes Saints

A “saint” by man’s definition is someone who has lived an exceptionally holy life and then is venerated after death by prayers, images, and worship. A “saint” by others’ definition is someone who is sinless, like in ... “I don’t claim to be a saint”. However, a “saint” by God’s definition is anyone who has been set apart from sin through obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2).

A “saint” is to live a certain manner of life which is “becoming”; that is, expected, fitting, proper, or appropriate. But, who says what is expected, fitting, proper, or appropriate, the world or God? God sets the standard for all saints and he does so in the gospel (Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27).

It “becomes” saints to obey the righteous commands of God (Matthew 3:15), to show hospitality (Romans 16:1-2), to live and speak purely (Ephesians 3:3-4), to dress and behave modestly (I Timothy 2:9-10), and, to speak the sound doctrine of God’s word (Titus 2:1).

Is your conduct “becoming” of a saint as set forth by the gospel? Attendance alone does not determine a saint’s conduct. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- To create, the Son of God spoke, but to save he suffered.
- You determine whether your life sheds light or casts a shadow.
- When the prayers go up, the blessings come down.
- When you do a lot of kneeling, you don’t do much lying.
- To achieve you must believe.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

An Example To All Who Believe

When the Apostle Paul came to Thessalonica in Acts 17, a local church was established there. This local church of Christians soon became an example to all that believe (1 Thessalonians 1:7). The local church that meets here on Warfield Blvd. has been known through the years to exist in this place and be a faithful work since the 1980's. What can we learn from the local church at Thessalonica about being an example to all them that believe?

The Thessalonians were "imitators of us, and of the Lord" before they were examples to others (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14)

We learn that a local church can and must imitate Christ and his apostles before it can be the right example to others (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1-2; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 3:17; 4:9). Approved New Testament examples and "the word" of God (1:6) must be the standard and pattern for the local church, not the world (3 Jn. 11).

The Thessalonians were "examples to all that believe" (1 Thessalonians 1:7)

We learn that a local church can be an example to all that believe throughout the world and demonstrate that

New Testament Christianity can actually be practiced today (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:12).

The Thessalonians were examples as they were "sounding forth the word of God" (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

We learn that a local church is to be known for receiving the word of God (Acts 17:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-14), even "in much affliction" and "joy" (1 Thessalonians 1:6). A local church is to be known for sounding forth the word of God with clarity (1 Corinthians 14:8), with regularity (2 Timothy 4:2), and with purity (2 Cor. 2:17; 4:2).

The Thessalonians were examples as their "faith to God-word is gone forth" (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

We learn that a local church must have a growing and active faith before it can be an example (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4). A local church should also have a faith that is evident and unquestioned (3 John 12).

The Thessalonians were examples as they "turned unto God ... to serve ... and to wait for his Son" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

We learn that a local church must have

turned to God through true conversion before it can set the right example for others (Acts 14:15; 15:19; 26:18,20). A local church must turn from idols before it can set the right example for others (1 Jn. 5:21).

The Thessalonians were examples as they "turned unto God ... to serve ... and to wait for his Son" (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

We learn that a local church must actively serve God in the present and not rest on the successes of the past (John 12:26). A local church must also anticipate, expect, and be vigilant to the coming of Jesus (Romans 8:25; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:13).

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church he pointed out the need to imitate the New Testament pattern of example. A faithful local church can be that living example of the truth of Christianity to the world and to other faithful brethren. He also wrote about the need for sounding forth the word of the Lord. Preaching can be successful, people can change and start serving faithfully and anticipate the Lord's return. To the brethren here at Warfield Blvd., let's be that example to all who believe, here and everywhere. - Chris Reeves