

Doctrine of the Saints of the Lord

1. Moses is the first of the biblical writers to employ the term saints.
 - *Deuteronomy 33:2 And he said, The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.*
 - *Deuteronomy 33:3 Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.*

2. The word used in Deuteronomy 33 for saints is, *qodesh* (ko'-desh) meaning, "a sacred place or thing; rarely abstract, sanctity."

3. God has taken upon Himself the responsibility of protecting the steps of His saints. Herein is the assurance of the preservation of the saints.
 - *1 Samuel 2:9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.*

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
 What more can He say than to you He hath said,
 You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?"

4. The saints are to rejoice in goodness.
 - *2 Chronicles 6:41 Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.*

5. The saints are limited as to what they can do for those who are in trouble. This point should give pause to those who pray to the departed saints in heaven.
 - *Job 5:1 Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn?*

6. The Lord does not place any undue trust or confidence in His saints.
 - *Job 15:15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.*

Special Note.

The brightest creatures are imperfect and impure before God. God places no confidence in saints and angels; he employs both, but trusts neither with his service, without giving them fresh supplies of strength and wisdom for it, as knowing they are not sufficient of themselves, neither more nor better than his grace makes them (Matthew Henry).

7. The Christian is to devote himself to the honor of God in the service of the saints knowing that no one can merit the righteousness of Christ.
 - *Psalms 16:2 O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; 3 But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.*
8. The saints of God are to sing songs of praise to the Lord.
 - *Psalms 30:4 Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*
9. The saints are commanded to love the Lord for sometimes their “first love” can be lost.
 - *Psalms 31:23 O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.*
 - *Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*
10. The saints are to fear the Lord for therein is the source of all blessing.
 - *Psalms 34:9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*
11. The Lord will never forsake His saints. They are sheltered in the arms of God forever.
 - *Psalms 37:28 For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*

“Soon, I shall hear the call from heaven's portals,
 Come home my child, it's the last mile you must trod.
 I'll fall asleep and wake in God's sweet heaven,
 For I'm sheltered safe in the arms of God”.
12. The Lord is pleased when the saints gather for worship and praise.
 - *Psalms 50:5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*

- *Psalms 52:9 I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.*

13. Sometimes bad things happen to good people including wars, oppression, and persecution.

- *Psalms 79:2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.*

14. The Lord will speak peace to His people.

- *Psalms 85:8 I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.*

15. The Lord is always faithful to the saints.

- *Psalms 89:5 And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints.*

16. The Lord is to be greatly feared and held in worship by the saints.

- *Psalms 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*

17. God has promised to preserve the souls of His saints in time and in eternity.

- *Psalms 97:10 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.*

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure”.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776

18. The death of the saints is said to be precious in the sight of God for then they will be closer to Him than ever before.

- *Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*

19. The saints are instructed to shout for joy in acts of worship.

- *Psalms 132:9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy.*

- *Psalms 132:16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy.*

20. The saints will bless God and His works.

- *Psalms 145:10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.*
- *Psalms 148:14 He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the Lord.*
- *Psalms 149:1 Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.*

21. A joyful heart and a singing voice characterize the saints in glory.

- *Psalms 149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

22. Vindication in righteousness is one of the many honors of the saints.

- *Psalms 149:9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord.*

23. The Lord protects not only the final preservation but the process of the way of His saints.

- *Proverbs 2:8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*

24. Christians are more than conquerors through Christ. The church shall prevail over the kingdoms of the world.

- *Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*

25. In time, during the days of the angelic conflict, the Enemy will make war with the saints and at times be allowed to prevail.

- *Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*

26. Because of Christ the saints shall possess the kingdom.

- *Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

27. The Enemy of the church does not hesitate to rail against God and His saints.

- *Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*

28. The kingdom of God shall one day prevail against all the kingdoms of the world and shall be given to the saints.

- *Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

29. True saints are faithful saints.

- *Hosea 11:12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.*

30. The saints can look forward to prevailing with God against the unrighteous.

- *Zechariah 14:5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

31. Following the resurrection of Christ, many saints which had died arose for a brief period.

- *Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,*

32. The early Christians were collectively known as saints.

- *Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:*
- *Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.*
- *Acts 9:41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.*

33. Following his conversion, Saul of Tarsus acknowledged how he had once persecuted the saints.

- *Acts 26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.*

34. Those who have been called unto salvation are also call saints.

- *Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Special Note.

The words “to be” in Romans 1:7 are in italics and indicate they have been inserted into the text. Believers are not called to be or to become saints, they are called saints to indicate a present reality.

35. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to engage in intercessory prayer for the saints.

- *Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

36. Christians are to give generously to the needs of the saints.

- *Romans 12:13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*
- *Romans 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.*

37. Christians can evaluate and accept the service of others on their behalf.

- *Romans 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;*
- *Romans 16:2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.*

38. Christians should greet one another as saints in the Lord.

- *Romans 16:15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.*
- *1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

39. Christians are not to go to law with one another.

- *1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?*

40. One day Christians shall judge the world.

- *1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

41. Peace is to characterize the churches of the saints.

- *1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

42. There are riches of glory that the saints shall one day inherit.

- *Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*
- *Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

43. The convert to Christ is united to other saints and to the household of God.

- *Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

44. Humility is a noble characteristic of a saint.

- *Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

45. The saints are to seek to have greater knowledge of the Lord.

- *Ephesians 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

46. The saints are to be perfected or reach a state of spiritual maturity.

- *Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

47. Sensual sins are not to be practiced by the saints.

- *Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*

48. Christians are to pray for one another.

- *Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

49. The love of Christ should be extended to all the saints.

- *Colossians 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,*

50. The Lord would have the saints to be established in holiness.

- *1 Thessalonians 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

51. Jesus Christ receives glory in His saints.

- *2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

52. Good works are to be associated with Christians.

- *1 Timothy 5:10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.*
- *Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

53. Humble Christians recognize they are under authority.

- *Hebrews 13:24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.*

54. Every Christian is to earnestly contend for the faith received.

- *Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

55. When Jesus comes the second time for all who believe, He will be accompanied by His saints.

- *Jude 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

56. The prayers of the saints are considered sweet incense to the Lord.

- *Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*
- *Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*
- *Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

57. Every Christian shall be duly rewarded for faithfulness and service.

- *Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

58. The devil and his children make war with the saints.

- *Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*
- *Revelation 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

59. The perseverance of the elect is manifested in that they “*keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*”

- *Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

60. Many Christians have shed their blood for Christ.

- *Revelation 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.*

- *Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*
- *Revelation 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

61. The saints are clothed in “fine linen” of righteousness.

- *Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

62. Ultimate victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil belongs to the saints.

- *Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*