

Why Not St. Me or St. You?

Introduction:

- A. Paul identifies himself as an a _____ so that it be received as God's word.
1. Paul did not seek this office but rather sought to j _____ Christians.
 2. Jesus stopped Paul from continuing his persecution of Christians by revealing Himself and Paul accepted Jesus as the M _____.
 3. Paul tells us in Galatians 1:11-18 that after this, that he went away to Arabia and then _____ years later returned to Damascus and then went to Jerusalem to connect with the other apostles.
 4. Acts 19:9b records this time period with a Greek phrase that only L _____ uses (37 times) that is often translated, *and it came to pass* by the KJV (e.g. Acts 5:7; 16:16)
 - a. The phrase is translated in Act 19b as *now, then*, or is completely ignored by translations.
 - b. The phrase should be translated, *and it came to pass*.
 5. The office of apostleship carried the same weight as an Old Testament p _____ (Eph 2:20)
 - a. When an apostle spoke or wrote in the name of the Lord, it was to be received as God's w _____ (2Pet 1:20,21)
 - b. Peter considered Paul's writings as s _____ (2Pet 3:15,16)
- B. Paul identifies his readers as s _____
1. The earliest Greek copies do not have the word E _____ (4th century and earlier) but it was later added.
 2. Marcion (a 2nd century theologian) wrote that this letter was to the L _____.
 3. Since no particular group was mentioned, this letter was originally to _____ saints and so it directly applies to all believers today.

Your sainthood is an undeserved status (2)

- A. God c _____ all believers saints (e.g. Rom 1:6,7)
- a. It has nothing to do with how spiritual a person is – the Corinthian Christians were called saints even though they were f _____ (1Cor 1:2,3; 1Cor 3).
 - b. This calling is un _____
- B. Paul's salutation differs from secular letters in the following ways.

- a. Grace and peace are declared as exclamations of f_____ as opposed to a mere greeting.
 - b. The s_____ of grace and peace is named – it is from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Saints have grace and peace
- a. Grace – Eph 2:8,9 states that our salvation is by grace and not by w_____
 - b. Peace – Rom 5:1 states that Jesus’s death brought h_____ between the believer and God.
 - c. Your sainthood is an un_____ status

Your sainthood is about devoted service (1)

- A. The word saint
- 1. Literally, means one who is set a_____
 - 2. Non-Christian world – t_____ prostitutes were called saints because they were set apart to serve a god.
 - 3. Christian world – every Christian is set apart from the w_____ of unbelievers to serve the Lord.
- B. What sets believers apart from the unbelieving world?
- 1. It is not m_____ (anyone can be moral)
 - 2. It is not r_____ (anyone can be religious)
 - 3. It is a p_____ loving relationship with the Lord Jesus (unbelievers cannot have this)
- C. Saints are also called f_____ in Christ Jesus
- 1. Gramatically, the word *and* can mean a_____.
 - 2. Verse 1 should read, *to the saints who are also faithful in Christ Jesus* (RSV translation; see also NIV translation)
 - a. This is not n_____ the field of saints to the ones who are faithful
 - b. This is making a statement of equivalence – a saint is faithful in their r_____ to Jesus.
 - 3. This does not mean that saints never f_____, but that failure is not the practice. Faithfulness is the practice.
- D. You believers in Christ have been set apart from the world to faithfully serve Christ.
- 1. Paul will deal with s_____ service in the last three chapters.
 - 2. Paul will give the t_____ basis in the first three chapters.
 - 3. Serving Christ is simply living o_____ your loving relationship to the Lord (as we shall see)