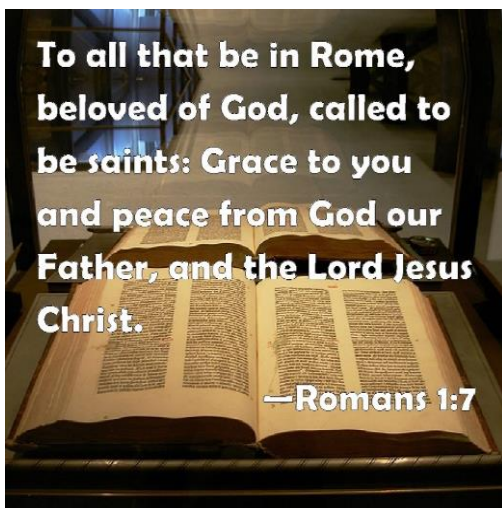


Guided by a cloud 33 (Exodus 13:21-22)

It's not easy to ignore the fact that some people will celebrate Halloween this Saturday. TV adverts encourage us to buy pumpkins, eat sweets, buy fancy dress and get ready to watch scary films. However, many are unaware that Sunday is All Saints Day. When we think of Saints we often think of the apostles such as St Luke, St Peter or the great epistle writer St Paul. Perhaps we think of saints who have been influential in the church and its development such as St Augustine or St Francis.

Quite often we think of Saints as some kind of spiritual giants, people who seemed to be closer to God than we can ever hope to be. Perhaps, more ordinarily we sometimes think of saints as those people who have helped us or done more for us than we could reasonably expect. Or perhaps those who have gone before us and passed their faith on to us.

Saints seem to come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and from lots of different backgrounds and more often than not they are ordinary people like us doing extraordinary things



Worship time

[Praise is rising](#)

[Jesus what a beautiful name](#)

[When the music fades](#)

Ephesians 1:1 Paul addresses the letter's recipients as "God's holy people." The King James version reads, "To the saints which are at Ephesus." The English word "saint" comes from the Latin sanctus, which means "holy." By definition saints are holy people.

But what does it mean to be a holy person, a saint? From a biblical perspective, something is holy when it is set apart for God and God's purposes. In Exodus 19, God set apart the Israelites as his own "treasured possession" (19:5). They would be a "holy nation" (19:6) through which God would make himself known to the world. In the New Testament, believers in Jesus Christ are referred to as "saints" or "holy people" because they have inherited Israel's status as people set apart by God.

When Jesus speaks the words known as the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, He speaks about the merciful, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for justice and righteousness. People who are involved in the world, speaking out and taking action, immensely worldly, yet immensely saint like and holy. True saints, it would seem, have one foot on earth and one foot in heaven and a balance between them. The perspective they have of heaven informs their actions on earth, and their actions on earth reveal more of the heaven they anticipate. We too are called to be saints, to emulate those who have gone before us and add to their number. We are called to live out the characteristics that Jesus spoke about in the Beatitudes

Therefore, on All Saints Day, it is a time to remember that God has made you special for him and his purposes, and that he has joined you into the eternal, worldwide fellowship of all his saints. Also, it's a good day to take seriously the fact that God wants to make himself known in this world through you as a member of the family of all saints.

FURTHER REFLECTION: When you hear the word "saint" or "holy person," what do you envision? Do you believe that God has set you apart for himself and for his mission in the world? Who are some of the "saints" who have encouraged you in your faith? Why not thank God for them today.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7