

**November 17, 2019 – II Thessalonians 2:13-17 (NIV)**

**THEME: What Is It That Makes A Saint - Triumphant?**

*“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”*

Today is Saints Triumphant Sunday. To be Triumphant means to be Victorious / Conquering / Exulting in Success.

In ancient Rome, when the General was victorious in battle, there would be a public celebration. The celebration involved a procession of Triumph. The Triumphal procession would proceed along the “Sacred Way”. The Roman Senators walked at the head of the procession. Behind the Senators came trumpeters and carriages bearing the spoils of war. Then there would be oxen to be sacrificed at their Pagan religious ceremonies then would come the captives in chains. Following the captives would be the Victorious General in a “Car” drawn by four horses. In the “Car” / chariot were the General’s family and friends. And ending this Triumphal procession would be the soldiers. Everyone would be cheering and singing except the captives of course.

Two weeks ago we learned that a Saint is anyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their one and only Savior from Sin, death and the devil. Today we want to ask: **What makes a Saint Triumphant?** This section of Scripture gives us the answer. The bottom line is of course: God in Christ Jesus.

**Vs. 13 – But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.**

**Vs. 14 – He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

On Palm Sunday, Jesus Rode into Jerusalem in a Triumphal Procession on a Colt the Foal of a Donkey. The crowds were singing and laying palm branches and coats before HIM, as Jesus Rode to His Death on the Cross.

When Christ Jesus was on trial, and when He was on the cross HE looked weak and beaten. But in reality Jesus was Victorious, Over Sin, Death and the Devil. Jesus rose on Easter Sunday.

And Because of Christ’s Victory, We also are Victorious. We share in His Victory as Believers in HIM. Through the Waters of Baptism we are Heirs of eternal Life in Heaven.

So What is it that Makes Us, The Believers / SAINTS Triumphant? = Jesus Christ our Risen Savior. AMEN