

The Lord Crowns The Saints With Salvation

November 5, 2017 – Psalm 149:1-9

“Praise The Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp. For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds. May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all His saints. Praise the Lord.”

Are you a Saint? Our Culture / Society / World has developed a distorted view of the term Saint due to the fact that people do not search the Scriptures, but instead listen to all types of misguided individuals and organizations, and too many books and movies that distort the term Saint.

To find a Scriptural definition for the term Saint, we need to look to the Scriptures, The Word of God, which God has revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

Ephesians 1:1 – “Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:”

The Greek term for Saint = - αγιοις - The Holy Ones. Those who have been made Holy by the Blood of Jesus. In short, the believers in Christ Jesus are Saints. November 1, has been recognized by many Christians as All Saints Day. It was on the Eve of All Saints Day – Hallowed Eve - that Martin Luther posted the 95 Thesis on the Castle Church Door in Wittenberg. The expression – Halloween - has come from the phrase - Hallowed Eve.

ALL SAINTS DAY has been used as a way of remembering saints / believers in three different ways:

1. By thanking God for examples of His mercy
2. By using the saints as examples for strengthening our faith.
3. When seeing the examples of the saints / believers imitating the faith of other believers and their God pleasing virtues.

In Psalm 149 we see ways that Believers can and do Praise their Lord.

Vs. 1 – Praise The Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.

True we can and do praise God individually, but in this Psalm we see the Assembly of believers, hence believers join together for regular Public / Joint Worship.

Vs. 2 – Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

It is important to remember that as New Testament Believers we are Children of Abraham and can also be called Israel, and the People of Zion. As believers joining together in Public Worship we worship Our King - Jesus The Christ.

Vs. 3 – Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp.

In the following passage from Exodus we see that Miriam lead the woman in dancing with the tambourine after the Lord saved Israel from the Egyptian army by destroying the Egyptians in the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:20 – Then Miriam the prophetess and sister of Aaron took a tambourine in her hand and all the women followed her with tambourine and dancing.”

We also have an example of King David as he danced before the Lord.

II Samuel 6:14 -15 – David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the Lord with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.”

Ps. 149: Vs. 4 – For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation.

As Christians we humble ourselves to the fact that we are sinful from the moment we were conceived, and that we are by nature dead in our trespasses and sin, and all our righteous acts are as filthy rags. And every inclination of the thoughts of our heart are only evil all the time and we are by nature enemies of God.

We humble ourselves to the Word of God as we recognize our need Jesus for our Savior from sin.

Vs. 5 – Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

We rejoice in the honor of the Crown of Salvation which God has given us in Christ Jesus. Thus we can look forward to our Crown in heaven, where there is no more sin or death or sorrow or pain and we will receive our new glorified bodies.

Vs. 6 – May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double edged sword in their hands,

What is in our mouth and hand? As Saints in the Lord we carry the double edged sword of God’s Word, the LAW and the GOSPEL (Hebrews 4:12) The Law which shows us our Sin and the Gospel which shows us our Savior. We also know that God’s Word is Powerful as we are told in this Psalm that God uses His Word:

Vs. 7 – to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

Vs. 8 – to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron,

Vs. 9 – to carry out the sentence written against them.

Vs. 9b - This is the glory of all His saints. Praise the Lord.

We can praise the Lord here and now on this earth in this life and forever in heaven because of Jesus Christ our One and Only Risen and Victorious Savior. AMEN



In the Augsburg Confession we have further insight into the term “Saints”.

Augsburg Confession – Article XXI – Of the Worship of the Saints.

“Of the worship of Saints, They (the Lutheran theologians) teach that the memory of saints may be set before us that **1.** – We may follow their faith and good works according to our calling, as the Emperor may follow the example of David in making war to drive away the Turks from his country. For both are kings. **2.** But the Scripture teaches NOT the invocation of the saints, or to ask help of saints, since it sets before us the One Christ as the Mediator, Propitiation, High Priest, and Intercessor. HE is to be prayed to, and has promised that HE WILL hear our prayer; and this worship HE approves above all, to wit, that in all afflictions He be called upon, I John 2:1 – If any man sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, etc.” (Augsburg Confession – XXI – 1 Triglotta pg. 58059)