

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking this morning at 1 Corinthians chapter 1 as we examine the “benefits of being a saint.”
2. Ambrose Bierce, said, “A saint is a dead sinner, revised and edited.”
3. Verse 2 tells us that a saint is one who calls “on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
4. He is a saint “by calling.”
5. Anyone who is saved, who knows the Lord Jesus Christ, is a saint.

6. Now this morning, I want us to look at the “benefits of being a saint.”
7. In verses 4-9 Paul lists 5 benefits.
8. Before we look at each one, let me read verses 4-9.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.
10. It is an amazing thing to be a part of the kingdom of God---to be a Christian, a saint “sanctified in Christ Jesus” (v.2).
11. We do not deserve it nor did we do anything to earn it.
12. We are “saints by calling” (v.2).

13. God called us to Himself.
14. He made us holy in Jesus Christ.
15. We should never lose sight of this wonderful truth.
16. Paul didn't.
17. In fact he was thankful for what God had done in the lives of the Corinthians.
18. He expresses his thanksgiving in verse 4 and then lists why he was thankful.
19. Paul was a thankful person.
20. He expressed his thanksgiving some 23 times.

21. 4 times in Romans, 6 times in 1 Corinthians, 1 time in 2 Corinthians, 2 times in Ephesians, 1 time in Philippians, 3 times in Colossians, 3 times in 1 Thessalonians, 2 times in 2 Thessalonians, and 1 time in Philemon.

22. Some of the things he was thankful for had to do with his readers having a saving faith in Jesus Christ (Rom.1:8), for Prisca and Aquila for risking “their own necks” for him (Rom.16:3-4), for help he received from the Corinthians (2 Cor.1:11), for those who participated in the gospel (Phil.1:3-5), for those who showed love for all the saints (Col.1:3-4), for those who expressed their work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess.1:3), and for those who received their preaching not as

the word of men but for what it is the word of God (1 Thes.2:13).

23. If you'll notice that what I have just listed has reference to eternal matters.
24. But Paul picks up the rest in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
25. The word that Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 1:4 for "thank" is the Greek word eucharisteo. It means "to give thanks."
26. This is the same word that is used to describe the Lord's Supper in chapter 11.

27. It's used here in the present tense to indicate a continuous action.
28. This is real action as the indicative states.
29. In spite of the problems at Corinth, Paul was always thankful for God's work in them.
30. Some believe that Paul's thanksgiving for the benefits the Corinthians received was to prepare them for the rebuke they were about to receive.
31. That may very well be true.
32. Paul did that to Philemon.
33. After he points out about the faith and love that Philemon had for all the saints,

he appealed to him for Onesimus.

Notice in verse 4 the first benefit of being a saint:

LESSON

I. Grace (v.4)

- A. Paul just mentioned “grace” in verse 3 as part of his greeting
- B. There it was used as an expressed desire that he had for the Corinthians
- C. We all need grace, not just at salvation, but everyday

- D. The Corinthians needed it too. They were a mess
- E. Paul mentions “grace” 8 times in 1 Corinthians and 18 times in 2 Corinthians
- F. Paul ends 1 Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 16:23 (NASB) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.
- G. Grace is favor, undeserved favor with God but in regard to God’s saving men through His Son it always has the special and distinct sense of undeserved and unrepayable kindness or mercy given to sinners. It is supermagnanimous giving, giving that is totally undeserved and unmerited. It need not, in fact cannot, be repaid.

God's saving grace is free and unearned.¹

- H. Verse 4 says it is “the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus.”
- I. Grace is always present where sin is present.
- J. Romans 5:20-21 (NASB) The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹ MacArthur, John F., Jr. [1 Corinthians](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

- K. So grace can operate only where there is sin. Without need of forgiveness there is no need of grace.²
- L. This “grace” was “given”
- M. “Given” (Gr.didomi), “to give, grant”
- N. It’s in the aorist tense indicating a time in the past when this was given to them (at salvation)
- O. John 1:16 (NASB) For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- P. 1 Timothy 1:13-14 (NASB) even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted

² Ibid., MacArthur. 1 Corinthians.

ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

Paul continues with the benefits in verse 5...

II. Riches (v.5)

“That in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge.”

- A. The word “enriched” (Gr. ploutizo) is used only 3 times: 1 time in 1 Corinthians, 2 times in 2 Corinthians
- B. It’s also used in the aorist tense to indicate a beginning point in the past

- C. It's also used in the passive voice to indicate the Corinthians were the recipients of these riches
- D. It's used of spiritual riches (2 Cor.6:10)
- E. It's used to be richly furnished (passive) (1 Cor.1:5)
- F. Paul adds the adjective "everything" (Gr. pas)
- G. It means "all" or "every" thing
- H. The Corinthians had everything the Lord had to give them and therefore everything they needed
- I. Ephesians 1:3 (NASB) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

J. Colossians 2:10 (NASB) and in Him you have been made complete...”

K. 2 Peter 1:3 (NASB) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

L. Paul mentions 2 particular blessings in verse 5 that are related to presenting the truth of God’s Word: all speech and all knowledge

- M. The Corinthians were richly endowed with gifts of the Holy Spirit
- N. Paul specifies gifts of utterance (speech) and all knowledge
- O. This means that the Corinthians had been given the gifts of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and knowledge to an extraordinary degree. Utterance has to do with outward expression and knowledge with inward comprehension.³
- P. In regard to speaking for God, believers are able to speak when God wants them to because of His enablement. Prayer reaches out for that ability, and diligence

³ MacDonald, William. [*Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*](#). Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

in study of God's Word aids it.⁴

Q. The Apostles prayed in Acts 4:29 (NASB) And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence.

R. Paul requested prayer in Ephesians 6:19 (NASB) and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

The first two benefits of being a saint are grace and riches. The third is...

III. Assurance (v.6)

While they were being enriched in

⁴ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

everything, the “testimony of Christ was confirmed in (them).”

- A. The word “confirmed” (Gr. bebaioo) is also used in the aorist tense indicating an action that began in the past.
- B. It’s also passive indicating the Corinthians had received this confirmation by God Himself
- C. So they were “confirmed,” “*made firm, established, made sure*”⁵ concerning Christ
- D. The fact that they had these gifts was a confirmation of God’s work in their lives

⁵ Thayer, Joseph Henry. [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti*](#) 1889 : 99. Print.

- E. They heard the testimony of Christ, they received it by faith, and God testified that they were truly saved by giving them these miraculous powers.⁶
- F. Notice that the confirmation was “in you”
- G. Lenski says “In you” means in your hearts by an increase of faith.⁷
- H. Mark 16:19-20 (NASB) So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the

⁶ Ibid., MacDonald. 1 Corinthians 1:6.

⁷ Lenski, R. C. H. [*The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians*](#). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1963. Print.

signs that followed.

- I. Hebrews 2:3-4 (NASB) how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Another benefit of being a saint is...

IV. Spiritual Gifts (v.7a)

“So that you are not lacking in any gift.”

- A. Speech and knowledge mentioned in verse 5 are spiritual gifts
- B. They didn't lack any of the gifts
- C. They had them all (12:4-10)
- D. The word "lacking" (Gr. hustereo) means "to fall short of"
- E. This verb is a present, passive indicating they never lacked "any gift"
- F. The noun translated "gift" is the Greek word charisma where we get charismatic
- G. It literally means "a gift of grace."

- H. While the blessings of speech and knowledge were primarily for evangelizing the lost, the spiritual gifts (chaps. 12–14) edify the church.
- I. Because these gifts are given to each believer (12:11, 12) without regard for maturity or spirituality, the Corinthians, though sinful, had them in full.

We have seen the benefits of grace, riches, assurance, and spiritual gifts. Notice the last...

V. Hope (vv.7b-9)

“Awaiting eagerly the revelation of Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A. Their hope was in Christ

Paul looks to the blessing of future grace. At the Lord's second coming, His full glory, honor, and majesty will be revealed in blazing splendor (Rev. 4:11; 5:12; 17:14), at which time all true believers will be fixed solidly forever as holy and without sin in full resurrected glory and purity to live in heaven with God forever.⁸

B. Paul affirms this in Galatians 5:5 (NASB) For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

C. The “revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v.7) and “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v.8) are speaking about the

⁸ Ibid., MacArthur Study Bible. 1 Corinthians 1:7.

same event -- the rapture of the church
(see 1 Thess.4:13-18; John 14:1-3)

- D. Just like the Thessalonians who were waiting “for His on from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess.1:10).

- E. Once again it is striking that Paul’s thanksgiving is concerned with what God will do rather than with what the Corinthians have done. Because they have trusted Christ, and because God confirmed this fact by giving the gifts of the Spirit to them, Paul was confident that God would keep them for Himself until Christ’s coming for His people.⁹

⁹ Ibid., MacDonald. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8.

F. In that day they would be confirmed and blameless

G. God is faithful to do it (v.9)

H. Paul knows that since God had gone to such tremendous cost to make them sharers of the life of our Lord, He would never let them slip out of His hands.¹⁰

CONCLUSION

1. What Paul has written in verses 4-9 are true of all believers in Jesus Christ.
2. All believers have been given grace, spiritual riches, assurance, spiritual gifts, and hope.

¹⁰ Ibid., MacDonald. 1 Corinthians 1:9.

3. If this describes you, you are a believer and He as Philippians 1:6 (NASB)says, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
4. Our God is faithful!
5. Let’s pray.