

SAINTS

Saturday, 1st November, was **All Saints' Day**. Throughout the centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has made a number of people saints - indeed, this has even happened quite recently with the recognition of a young man as a saint. However, the Bible teaches that **all who know and love the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord** are saints. That means you and me, brothers and sisters, if we have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

There are many verses in the New Testament that affirm this truth - that all true believers in Christ are seen by God as saints. Here are just a few: **1 Corinthians 1:2** - Paul writes to the church of God in Corinth, that is, to every believer there. **Ephesians 1:15-18** - Paul gives thanks and prays for all believers. **Romans 5:18** and **Romans 8:26-27** - both remind us of the righteousness and intercession we have through Christ and the Spirit.

Surprisingly, there are also references to saints in the Old Testament - for example, **1 Samuel 2:9** and several passages in the **Psalms**. I am especially encouraged by **Revelation 5:8**, where John, in his vision, sees the twenty-four elders kneeling before the throne, presenting golden bowls full of incense - **the prayers of the saints** - to the One seated on the throne. Those are *our* prayers, and in His perfect will and purpose, God hears and answers them.

So, brothers and sisters, be encouraged! God the Father sees **you** as a saint because of your faith and trust in Jesus, His Son. Yet with this blessing comes a challenge - to live lives worthy of His Name, so that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we bring glory and honour to Him.

We are saints not only on **1st November**, but **every day**, as we seek to serve one another and the communities in which God has placed us. Your brother in Christ, **Alastair**

Sunday Morning Services @ 10.30am:

2nd Nov - Speaking: Alastair (2 Sam 7:1-17), Leading: Patricia

9th Nov (Remembrance Sunday) - Speaking: Alastair, Leading: Ali (**Communion**)

16th Nov - Speaking: Pete (2 Sam 9), Leading: Tim

23rd Nov - Speaking: Tim (2 Sam 11), Leading: Patricia

30th Nov (1st Sunday in Advent) - Speaking: Alastair (2 Sam 12), Leading: Ali

Upcoming Events

Prayer Meeting (Zoom) - Thursdays 6th & 20th Nov

Bible Study (Church & Zoom) - Thursdays 13th & 27th Nov

Church Meeting after the Service - Sunday 16th Nov

Lavender Lodge Service - Sunday 23rd Nov

Ladies' Prayer Chain

For any prayer requests, whether general or confidential, please contact Christine at 01252 659249 or 07957 568545.