

b. The steps to sainthood...a matter that needs to be briefly reviewed in the course of this study.

In coming to sainthood there is first the human progression of Ephesians 1:12-13. One hears the Word of Truth, believes it for himself, and is sealed with the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of background activity to this but this is about all we are aware of as it happens. We hear..feel the need to respond (implied), believe, and receive the Holy Ghost.

The Divine action is seen in 1:4 and 2:4-8 where we see that God began the operation of the plan before the foundation of the world, chose us in agreement with the plan of the Gospel and gave us the faith and grace to be saved. No man can boast of his wisdom in coming to God...he can only rejoice in the reality of his salvation. He heard and believed..God provided what was needed in all aspects.

This should indicate how much we are indebted to grace and should make any Christian think soberly about how his life is directed and put to the service of God.

Every believer qualifies as a saint...since there is no way to be saved without being made holy through the work of Christ.

2. The character of saintly conduct:

This is more problematical. The holy character is certified in heaven, the matter of walk or living is seen here on earth. Our plea in this discussion is that the believer who sees he is a saint should seek to live in a way to credit that position. What should the conduct of the saint be like:

a. Marked by growing knowledge of the Lord