

Sermon Outlines

Am I A Disciple?

Readings:

Matt. 4:18-21 - With emphasis on, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Introduction

The following are some of the ways the saints are described in the New Testament:

- a) Christians (Acts 11:26)
- b) Saints (Acts 9:13)
- c) Kings and Priests (Rev. 1:6)
- d) Disciples (Acts 11:26)
- e) Sons of God (1 Jn. 3:2)
- f) Children of God (Rom. 8:16, 21)
- g) Elect of God (Col. 3:12)
- h) Holy Brethren (Heb. 3:1)
- i) Royal Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9)
- j) Peculiar people (1 Pet. 2:9)

Clarification of the word "Disciple"

- 1) What did the word "Disciple" mean in New Testament times?
 - a) When a Jewish boy was 12 years of age a decision had to be made, would he continue his education or be a workman as Joseph was.
 - b) If he was to advance in education he would have gone to the best that could be afforded and become a disciple of the individual. If he wanted to advance in medicine he would have gone to a teacher of medicine and become His disciple. The same had he gone into baking, lecturing, languages, he would have become a disciple, and that would have been his discipline. The purpose was for him to soak up every iota of knowledge and skill the teacher had until the disciple was like the Teacher.
 - c) Paul was such an individual for he sat at the feet of the great teacher, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).
- 2) What does the word "Disciple" indicate in the New Testament?
 - a) The word "disciple" occurs 233 times in the New Testament and while they all do not refer to New Testament saints, there are indicators as to what a disciple is.

A New Testament disciple is one who is called

- 1) When our Lord was here He used the term "Disciple" in a variety of ways:
 - a) In Matthew 4:19, 21 the Lord called His first disciples saying, "Follow me" to Peter, James and John. The Lord just called them and they followed him leaving their father, the ships and the nets. In other words, they left their manual labour and the family business to follow the Lord.
 - b) Notice the emphasis on the word "called" (Matt. 4:18, 21).
- 2) With regard to the people of God, there are two avenues of being "called" in the New Testament:
 - a) Called to do a specific work as Paul and Barnabas were (Acts 13:2), or to a specific "position" among the saints (1 Cor. 1:1).
 - b) It is also used of the blessings and anticipations which we are brought into. We are called:
 - i) Out of darkness (1 Pet. 2:9)
 - ii) Unto the fellowship of His Son (1 Cor. 1:9)
 - iii) To peace (1 Cor. 7:15)
 - iv) Unto liberty (Gal. 5:13)
 - v) Unto His kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:12)
 - vi) Unto His eternal glory (1 Pet. 5:10)

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- vii) To be “sons of God” (1 Jn. 3:1)
- viii) Unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9)

Conclusion

As the individual lives in the vastness of the blessings which God in grace has bestowed, it will help greatly in fulfilling His desire for us to “follow” Him.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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