

# Saint Patrick's Day

- **Celebration held on March 17, which is the traditional death date of Saint Patrick. (c AD 385-461)**
- **Commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland**
- **Technically, has not been canonized as a Saint**



Picture from Wikipedia.com

# Sainthood



- **“For most of Christianity's first thousand years, canonizations were done on the diocesan or regional level. Relatively soon after the death of people considered very holy, the local Church affirmed that they could be liturgically celebrated as saints.”**
- **“Canonization is the act by which a Christian church declares that a person who has died was a saint, upon which declaration the person is included in the "canon", or list, of recognized saints.”**
- **“The first persons honored as saints were the martyrs... By the fourth century, however, "confessors"—people who had confessed their faith not by dying but by word and life—began to be venerated publicly.” (Wikipedia)**

# What does it mean to be called a saint?



- **Saint (modern):**
  - any of certain persons of exceptional holiness of life, formally recognized as such by the Christian Church, esp. by canonization.
  - a person of great holiness, virtue, or benevolence.
  - a founder, sponsor, or patron, as of a movement or organization.

## How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has died for Christ? (Martyr = witness)**

**–Rev. 16:6; 17:6**

**–Yes, someone who has died a martyr's death (while living faithfully) is considered a saint**

# How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has died while faithful to God?**

– **Matt. 27:52; Rev. 14:12**

– **Yes, someone who has died in faithfulness to God is considered a saint**

## How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has been deemed worthy of being called a saint?**
- **"It is evident that *hagios* and its kindred words . . . express something more and higher than *hieros*, sacred, outwardly associated with God; . . . something more than *semnos*, worthy, honorable; something more than *hagnos*, pure, free from defilement. *Hagios* is . . . more comprehensive . . . It is characteristically godlikeness" (G.B. Stevens, in Hastings' Bib. Dic.).**

# How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Saint (Greek): noun “*hagios*”**
  - **A most holy thing; a saint**
  - **That which is sanctified, separated; consecrated to God**
  - **“In the plural, as used of believers, it designates all such (all believers) and is not applied merely to persons of exceptional holiness, or to those who, having died, were characterized by exceptional acts of “saintliness”.” (Strong)**

## How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has been deemed worthy of being called a saint?**
  - **All those that are Christians are saints –  
II Thess. 1:10; I Cor. 6:2**
  - **As Christians, we are “called” to be saints  
– Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:2**
  - **There is a standard of “sainthood” –  
Rom. 16:2; Eph. 5:3**



# How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has been deemed worthy of being called a saint?**
  - **Yes, in as much as one who has chosen to obey God has been called to be a saint by God**
    - **They have been sanctified and set apart by God**
    - **Therefore they set themselves apart (“called out”) from the world and sin**

**I have died for  
Christ? (Martyr)**

**I have died a faithful  
Christian?**

**How does the Bible define a  
saint?**

**I have been deemed  
worthy of being  
called a saint?**

**I am worthy of being  
elevated above other  
Christians by being  
called a “Saint”?**

## How does the Bible define a saint?

- **Someone who has been deemed worthy of being elevated above other Christians?**
  - **Nowhere in the NT is the term “saint” used as a title, only as a descriptive noun**
  - **We are to imitate others who are faithful, but not exalt them or pray to them –**  
**I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; Heb. 6:12;**
  - **No approved example in the NT of anyone other than God being the object of devotion**

## **How does the Bible define a saint?**

- **Someone who has been deemed worthy of being elevated above other Christians?**
  - **No Christian is to be exalted as a “Saint”; only God is worthy of exaltation**
  - **To pray to “Saints” would be exalting them to a position that only God holds – one worthy of devotion and exaltation (Not even angels can hold this honor)**