

WHAT GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED

Introduction

- 1) The **Biblical descriptions and names** given for God's people identify who and what they are – if you are saved, you are a _____
 - a) Descriptions and names are important – describing something wrong or calling someone by a wrong name will cause confusion
- 2) The book of Acts records the descriptions and names revealed by the Holy Spirit to identify the people that were saved in Christ and entered into God's fellowship
- 3) This will provide a good study of the nature and identity of the people of God today

I) **BELIEVERS**

- A) **Acts 2:44** – “all who believed”; 4:32 – “those who believed” (cf. 5:14)
- B) Those who believe are souls who “gladly receive the word” and obey it (v. 41; Jas. 1:21-22)
- C) To receive the word in faith, we must hear it (Rom. 10:17)
- D) We cannot be saved without faith (Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6), and we have all the information we need to believe (Jn. 20:30-31); this belief involves obedience (Jas. 2:19-20)
- E) God's people are **believers** – people who believe and obey God, His Son Jesus, and His word

II) **DISCIPLES**

- A) **Acts 6:1, 7; 9:1, 10, 25-26** – “disciples,” “disciples of the Lord”
- B) Disciple [*mathetes*] – a learner, one who follows one's teaching, an adherent (Vine)
- C) The apostles were to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19)
 - 1) Those who would learn, believe, obey, and continue learning (vv. 19-20)
- D) We are to be **disciples** – those who are constantly learning and growing (1 Pet. 2:2)
 - 1) Hard to be true disciples if we do not absorb the teaching (Jas. 1:18-21)
 - 2) Hard to be true disciples if we do not adhere to the teaching (Jas. 1:22-25)

III) **BRETHREN**

- A) **Acts 6:3; 9:30** – used in spiritual sense (Acts 2:29, 37; 22:13 – physical, ethnic sense)
- B) Brethren [*adelphos*] – a community based on identity of origin or life (Vine)
 - 1) God's people are identified by their origin (born again – Jn. 3:5) and their life (Gal. 2:20)
- C) We are **brethren**, brothers and sisters in the household of God the Father (Eph. 2:19)

IV) **SAINTS**

- A) **Acts 9:13, 32, 41; 26:10; 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 4:21**
- B) Saint [*hagios*] – devoted, sanctified, holy persons; consecrated to God
- C) Used of God's people in Old Testament (Psa. 31:23-24)
- D) Lord Jesus to be “glorified in His **saints**” when He returns (2 Thess. 1:10)

V) **CHRISTIANS**

- A) **Acts 11:26; 26:28** – belonging to Christ; part of his group/congregation (church)
- B) Called “Christians” – not term of derision, but from God (11:26; 13:1; cf. Isa. 62:2)
- C) If suffer as a “**Christian**,” glorify God in this name (1 Pet. 4:16)

Conclusion

These names and descriptions stand alone – not hyphenated (? – Christian). We should desire to be only what the Bible describes – no more and no less – just a disciple, a Christian, a saint.

Do you want to be called...a *believer* of the word? a *saint* consecrated to God?
a *disciple* of Jesus? a *Christian*, belonging only to Christ
a *brother or sister* in God's house? **Believe and obey today!**