***Colossians 3:1-17* - Being a Saint**

**Today is Saint George’s day** - not something we focus on

 I want to consider today - biblical view of being a saint

What does it really mean for us - is quite important

 And the concept of being a saint - very biblical

**Who are saints?**

**Practice making people saints** - in RC / Orthodox - unhelpful

 Has caused a particular meaning - doesn’t have in bible

Hebrew word saints is Hasid - literally - ‘*pious one*’

 *Hasidic* Jews - literal with law - not OT meaning

**Not common word** - occurs 24 times - mostly in Psalms

 Always used to describe - the people of God - as a unity

The holy ones of God - his saints - not legalistic people

**Greek hagios** - literal ‘holy one’ saints = people who are holy

 Those sincerly follow God - pious in religious observance

Word common in NT letters - used lots in Revelation

 And in every use of the word - meaning is the same

Term of address - people of God / saints in a place

**So - we are all saints** - not just some who particularly good

 Those who have performed miracles - are especially pious

***But all those saved by grace*** - trust Jesus for salvation

 Simply - saints are children of God - chosen people

**If we understand this** - lead us to the ‘*so what*’ moment

 What does this mean for today? - how do I live as a saint?

**1. Having a mind for Christ *- v 1-4***

**We are dead with Christ** - a present reality + a future event

 Once committed to Christ - we are dead with him

We live today with Christ - until the future fulfilment

**So - our hearts should be in heaven** - not just on earth

 Concentrate on godly things - remember live on earth

Think about / be like Christ - in all we do - here & now

 Consider present situation - heavenly perspective

**2. Living a life with Christ *- v 5-11***

**Simple truth** - thinking like Christ - leads to acting like Christ

 Thought = mind - Actions = body / we are whole persons

Seek to be doing as Christ would do - in all situations

**Must put aside a sinful life** - lots of lists of what not to do

 They are an unsaved person’s actions - not of Christ

List here - representative not exhaustive - no get-outs

 Should consider all we do - with mind of Christ

**3. Showing the love of Christ *- v 12-17***

**Thinking and acting like Christ** - leads to loving like Christ

 Acting towards others as Christ would = showing love

Love is accepting / forgiving / supporting / upbuilding

 If this characterises our life - not going far wrong

**To summarise this** - discipleship is about the whole person

 Being like Christ - in all we do / think / say / feel

To give God every part of self - holding nothing back

 This is - true discipleship / holy living / being a saint