

*To the saints.*—And who are the saints? No word in Scripture is more misapplied than this. The Church of Rome makes saints only of those who are dead, and of these only a very few. Certain ones, after having been dead a certain time, because of supposed distinguished piety or service to the Church, are by authority of the Church, canonized and made saints by men. According to Rome, there are no saints on earth, and never were; they are all in heaven, a privileged few.

Many who reject this, apply the word to the very holy ones, who have overcome all traces of the flesh, and are perfectly sanctified.

But according to the Word of God, the saints are all the people of God on earth. The word means "holy ones," or "sanctified," but the holiness which constitutes them saints is not a righteousness or character attained, for there are none such on earth. Their holiness is that which they have in Christ, and as this is made good to everyone who believes, the weakest as well as the strongest—therefore the sinner, the moment he is joined to Christ by faith, is a saint.

We reject the teachings of Rome, and yet we are perpetuating their errors when over the pages of our Bibles we put the names of "St. Matthew," "St. John," "St. Paul," etc., and when we speak of the disciples as saints, to distinguish them from all believers. This is Romanism. Let us refuse to sanction the heresy by using their terms. Never did the disciples use it as a special title. They were saints—but so was every man and woman and child who believed. This letter is addressed to the saints; even to those whom he had to rebuke to put away lying and to steal no more.