

POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE DECLARED A SAINT?

The New Testament calls all believers in Christ “saints.” “Saints” are simply God’s holy people. They have been made holy by the precious blood of Christ, and, in spite of continuing to sin daily, they also begin, by way of response, to live holy lives. There is nothing wrong with calling apostles like Peter and Paul “St Peter” and “St Paul.” It is love that paints the halo on their heads. However, the whole idea that only certain people are saints after the church has canonised them is wrong. The term “canonised” means that their names are placed with others in the prayers in the “canon” of the mass. The idea that a person must have several documented miracles attributed to him or her to qualify for the title “saint” is completely without Scriptural support.

The first papal bull of canonisation did not occur until 993 AD, almost a thousand years after Christ. Pope John XV declared Ludolph (otherwise known as Udalric), bishop of Augsburg (988-996 AD) a saint. The lateness of this development should itself lead people to question the whole process. In fact, people should beware of any kind of elitist thinking. There is no higher level of holiness for a select few. Peter and Paul had the same Ten Commandments as we have, and the whole idea of works of supererogation is unscriptural and phoney. That monks should have their consciences bound by unscriptural vows of celibacy, poverty, and obedience to the head of a monastery is simply legalistic, and has nothing to do with saintliness.