

5 November 2017 – All Saints.

Readings: Rev. 7:9-17; Ps. 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Mt. 5:1-12.

INTRO: *Children of God* – 1 John 3:1, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God.**”



I. SO WE ARE (saints).

1 John 3:1, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; **and so we are.**”

Matthew 22:32, “I am **the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**? He is not **God of the dead, but of the living.**”

The problem with Mother Teresa – We’re all saints by faith in Christ.

Luke 9:48, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is **the greatest.**”

Gal. 3:26, “In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.”

Hebrews 11, *Faith who’s who.* Not saints from a worldly perspective.

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the **new** has come.”



II. SO SAINTS DO.

1 John 3:3-6, “And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself** as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning.”

Philippians 2:12, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**”

Luther: *What does this mean for us?* God warns us that He will punish all who break these commandments; therefore we are to fear His wrath and not disobey Him. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments; therefore we are to love and trust Him, and gladly do what He commands.”

LOL, “Thus we must constantly grow in sanctification and always become new creatures in Christ!” (p. 174).



III. SO SAINTS BECOME (more saintly/sanctified).

A. More RADIANT.

Psalm 34:5, “Those who look to him are **radiant**, and their faces shall never be ashamed.”

2 Corinthians 3:18, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image **from one degree of glory to another.**”

Romans 8:19, “The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.” We are being revealed!

2 Timothy 3:12-14, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed.”

B. More TASTEFUL.

Psalm 34:8, “Oh, **taste** and see that the LORD is good!”

John 2:10, “you have saved **the best till now.**”

C. More HUNGRY.

Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they will be filled.”



CONCLUSION: Revelation 7:9-10, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, **from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**’

Revelation 7:13-14, “Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “**Who are these**, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”

So we remember and honour them today.

So may others one day remember and honour us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen. ☺