

All Saints Day (observed)
November 7, 2021

“Looking forward to the Final Reveal – Christ’s and Ours!”
(1 John 3:2)

By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Today’s text for this All Saints Day Celebration is from our Epistle reading, 1 John 3:2.

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Here ends our text.

Introduction:

“Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine. Yet all are one in Thee for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!”

I love this hymn, “For All the Saints”. It was one of my grandfather’s favorites also. As he preached throughout the year, he often chose this hymn to sing whether it was All Saints Day or not. For it keeps us ever with one eye on heaven where the saints robed in white rest from their labors as we heard in Revelation 7 in our first reading – where they no longer hunger or thirst, for they are in the very presence of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who is in their very midst and wipes away all tears!

“Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints.” (Psalm 116:15)

So, we read this passage at the death of our loved ones who have kept the faith. We read it especially this past year at the funeral of our members Pick Pickering, Shirley Weber, Helen Vogel, and I will read it on November 11th at Richard Poulter’s memorial gathering at the Yellow Rose trailer park at 11am.

Oh, they in glory shine! They have been completely purified by the blood of the Lamb! Theirs is no longer a life of great tribulation, but of continual praise and thankfulness for the perfect life they now have free from sin and evil!

Yes, we feebly struggle, we still are in our corrupt flesh, as we daily battle to crucify it through repentance and forgiveness in Jesus. We still live in a corrupt world of hunger, thirst, Corona Virus, and all the vileness of a world that does not know Him as we heard last week in Romans 1.

Yet, we “Thee by faith before the world confess, Thy name O Jesus, be forever blest.”

What an amazing sentence you just confessed in the Nicene Creed.
“I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”

I, you in your heart have this sure hope, that there is a resurrection from the dead. You look for the resurrection! You, by faith in Christ, know and believe that it is coming! You look for your resurrection that is coming! For you have been washed clean of your sins in your baptism.

You are indeed called a saint, even now. Listen to Psalm 16:3. Our Lord Jesus speaks of you, His delight!

“As for the saints who are on the earth, ‘They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.’” (Psalm 16:3)

On this All Saints Day, we His saints on earth are in fact called His children and strive to live as His saints.

Two things I want us to think on from our text that have been revealed to us, His saints still on earth. First, that we are His children even now, and second that we will see Jesus and be like Him when we get to heaven.

- I. God’s great love is revealed to us that made us His children in Jesus who died for us (v.5)

Does the world hold you in high esteem that you are a child of God, a believer in Jesus? Does the world care that you are a child of God? Verse 3 of our epistle in 1 John 3 says,

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

The sinful world sees our striving after purity, our sanctified life as children of God, as a waste of time! You fail daily! Why even bother?

“Do whatever you want” is the mantra of this world, and no one should reprove you if they don’t agree with you. The world says, “These children of God have placed such a burden on women in Texas who have to travel all night, across state lines, to abort their babies.” The world says, “Oh, these children of God want a say in what is being taught in public schools. How dare they!”

Oh, what great tribulation these children of God bring on themselves for daring to practice righteousness as He their Savior is righteous (v.7) Just be quiet, says the world, and go along with the flow of deception.

Yes, often we have. For we are not pure in our hearts. As we heard last week from Romans 3,

“There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

How then shall I see God? For our Lord tells us in Matthew 5:8 in the beatitudes from today’s Gospel, **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”**

Yes, we have sinned. We confessed at the beginning of the service. We confessed that we have not always acted as children of God. So verse 4 of our epistle reminds us.

“4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

But the very next verse reveals to us the Good News for repentant children of God! **“5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”**

We cling to this verse that Jesus took away our sin and in Him is no sin. He is pure and gives us His righteousness by faith. So, we heard last week on Reformation Sunday this amazing Good News from Romans 3 that we who have fallen short of the glory of God are justified freely!

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” (Romans 3:24)

So, John can begin chapter 3 of our epistle by exclaiming

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

What amazing love this is that He freely gave to all the world, His very Son who justified the world, forgiving all men’s sins!

We who know our sinfulness all too well, have to be told over and over again that we are children of God by grace through faith in Jesus! We are not just called children of God, but that is what we are John repeats in our text.

“Beloved, now we are children of God;” (1 John 3:2)

How has this been made possible for me? Hear again last week’s Gospel reading from John 8.

“And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:35-36)

Jesus has freed you from your sin by the power of the Gospel!

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

He has washed your sins away in your baptism and called you His child.

“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5-7)

He has freed you from the tyranny of the devil. Hear today’s epistle again.

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

And as a child of God you are a son or daughter and will live in His house of heaven forever, with all the saints who have kept this faith!

Yes, this has all been manifested and revealed in God’s word that Jesus has destroyed sin, death and the devil.

II. On the last day will be the final, big reveal of glory of body and soul

So, that on the last day it will also be revealed to you what you will finally be! You will be like Jesus our text says.

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)

This is the final reveal. We will see the glory of Jesus and not be ashamed for He Himself will glorify our bodies and souls to be pure and holy like our Lord.

The image of God which we lost in the fall of man will be fully restored. And we shall indeed be pure in heart by the shed blood of the Lamb so that we shall see God. So, Job confessed this sure hope that we also confess.

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27)

Yes, in our flesh, our flesh made perfect, we shall see God. We shall see Jesus true Man in the flesh, and also true God in all His glory! Oh what a sight this will be! Oh what a joy it will be to see our loved ones again in heaven with their glorified bodies.

As we wait for this final reveal, Christ’s final reveal of His glory and our final reveal in glory, we keep our hope, our sure hope in Jesus. We abide in His word and continue to receive forgiveness for our sins in this sacrament of the altar of Jesus’ very body and blood, until that day when we will see Jesus face to face.

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Great is Thy faithfulness we will now sing. “Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.” Amen

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)