

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

OPENING: We live in a world of instant gratification. We want it our way, right away. Is the internet too slow? Get high-speed internet! Does it take too long to gas up your car? Pay at the pump! Is snail-mail really that slow? Send an email. We eat in our cars, we talk on the phone in our cars. One thing we don't have – Patience. No patience and no desire to look forward to things to come.

But on All Saints Day, this is precisely what we confess as Christians. There is an eternal city, a paradise of God, an eternity of rest and being with the Lord. But we don't have it yet. Now we walk by faith, not by sight. Confessing the eternal joys of the life to come while yet struggling in this sin-filled world of death. One of the greatest struggles for Christians today is that we think we should have all of this peace and rest right now. No waiting.

1. When We Are Christians

- a. We believe that God should bless and reward us with a lack of problems.
- b. Christians shouldn't get sick.
- c. Christians shouldn't have trouble paying their bills.
- d. Christians shouldn't have problems with their marriages or difficulties raising their children.
- e. All of the peace and joy and bliss of heaven ought to be ours, immediately, instantly.
- f. But, when things do happen, we find ourselves far from God, unloving, toward our neighbors and full of unbelief, and then we wonder what's wrong.
- g. We don't feel much like saints then, do we? Why?
- h. Because we have forgotten what Jesus said about sainthood.

2. What Is A Saint?

- a. His Word tells us what "real life" is like as a Christian. (Matthew 5:3-10)
 - i. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.*
 - ii. *Blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.*
 - iii. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.*
 - iv. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for my sake.*
 - v. All of these Beatitudes that our Lord speaks describe the life of saints in this world.
 - vi. First of all, let's be very clear this word "Saint".
 - vii. A Saint is described as a Holy Person.
 1. In Christ, through baptism, you are saints.
 2. When we celebrate All Saints Day, we are recognizing that all of us are saints in God's sight through Christ.

3. After all, it is not how we live that makes us saints, but how Christ lived for us, died for us, and rose for us.
 - b. If you listen closely to the Beatitudes, you hear a description of those who are in Christ.
 - c. The Beatitudes describe those who have been crushed by God's Law over their sins and have nothing going for them except Christ and His perfect life, death, and resurrection for them.
 - d. To be "poor in spirit" means they have nothing to bring before God.
 - i. They have a poverty of spirit, empty, nothing.
 - ii. Yet they have Christ, for "to such is the kingdom of God."
 - iii. They mourn over their sins.
 - iv. They are troubled and frightened by their lack of faith.
 - v. Such sin causes them to shed tears of repentance.
 - vi. But they are comforted.
 - e. In the Beatitudes, Jesus described those who are troubled by sins, frightened by death, suffering for His Name, and who have nothing in themselves and their lives to cling to.
 - f. Rather, these saints have only Christ and the promise of His future blessings.

3. What the World Sees
 - a. The world sees saints as those who lead some extraordinary life doing things for others.
 - b. A life of near perfection and godliness.
 - c. People who have a lot of faith and can talk easily about God.
 - d. Human understanding has it wrong.
 - i. "I must be a saint because I live a good life better than others".
 - ii. Or, the opposite, "There is no way I can ever be a saint because I am not good enough."

4. We Should All
 - a. Repent of such notions that sainthood is about us!
 - b. It is about Christ and Christ delivered to us by Gospel and Sacraments.
 - c. After all, who is the One who is truly poor in spirit?
 - d. Who had a poverty of everything and everybody?
 - e. Was it not Christ himself?
 - f. Is it not Christ who did all things for us; Jesus who hungered and thirsted to bring you righteousness by dying for your sins?
 - g. Jesus is the one that is poor in spirit. Thereby, being in Christ through baptism, you are poor in spirit.
 - h. Christ is pure in heart; in Christ you are pure in heart.
 - i. And so on for all of these Beatitudes.
 - j. This is why He says, blessed are those who are persecuted by my name's sake.
 - k. People are not attacked by the devil for "being good", but for having a righteousness that is not their own, but Christ's.
 - l. The world can't stand those who trust in Christ instead of themselves.

m. Believe it! If you are in Christ, then the world will hate you. The Devil will target you and your sinful flesh will give you no rest.

CLOSING: So, today, as we celebrate All Saints Day, let us remember all those who have been saved by trusting in Christ Jesus, and not themselves.