

It Does Not Yet Appear What We Shall Be

Promise: declared holy we will eventually also be made holy

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Revelation 7:2-17; Psalm 149; [1 John 3:1-3](#); Matthew 5:1-12

(All Saints' Sunday, 11/120)

Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. — v. 2

Lead In – What comes to mind to you on this Festival of All Saints' Sunday? Who do you picture as the saints? Don't a lot of us think of names like St. Peter and St. Paul? Or St. Irenaeus and St. Athanasius. Or St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great, or St. Francis of Assisi. Indeed we think of these saints whose lives, not perfect, but in whom God's grace was evident so that they became exemplary. But I hope you know that all baptized believers are saints...

I. Just Who Are the Saints in Terms of Our Lessons

- A. The ones sealed against the harm coming...
- B. The ones clothed in white because washed...
- C. The ones with whom God is not through with yet...
- D. The ones persecuted for righteousness sake...

II. Sainthood Starts With Being Declared Righteous

- A. Justified is being declared righteous...
- B. Our lives hidden in Christ, covered in robe...

III. Sainthood Ends With Finally Being Made Holy

- A. In new heaven and earth, not just declared...
- B. Do we believe in purgatory?
- C. Why trials can purify our lives in faith...

Parting Shot – One thing important to know. Although a saint may appear to stand alone, they not only are never separated from Christ, but they are never truly alone even from the rest of the community of saints. We don't pray alone. We don't suffer alone. We keep and belong to the best company imaginable. And that we celebrate today!

Rev 7:3 "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Rite of Baptism: *Name*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Rev 7:9-10 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude ... 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!"

Rev 7:14 "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."

Ga 3:26-27 or in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Mt 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

1 John 3:1-3 RSV

Children of God

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Ro 8:33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Col 3:3-4 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Mt 5:6, 8 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." ... "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Mt 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1 Pt 1:15-16 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Rev 21:27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Ph 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Pt 1:6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

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