

# Faith in the Home

## All Saints Day (observed) Revelation 7:2-17, "Sealed and Washed"

I love All Saints Sunday! It is one of my favorite days of the year. On this day we remember our Christian loved ones who have left us in this world, but are still very much alive with Jesus. We miss them and we grieve for them, but we do so with hope! We know that they are with Christ and this leads to another reason why we celebrate this day.

We are "sealed" in this promise as well. Revelation 7, can help us sum up the theme of the whole book, which is to give us hope in this world. It is a promise of God that His hand is directing all things and that our salvation in Christ will be fulfilled even though we are in the midst of tribulation. In Revelation we see a spiritual of glimpse behind what has happened in our history, what is currently going on, and what will happen when Christ finally returns in the manner that He said He would.

This book is not meant to bring us fear, but joy. In Revelation 7, the apostle John sees that there are four angels tasked with bringing God's wrath upon the world, but they are told to wait until "the servants of God have been sealed." This could mean your baptism, but the point is that God knows who His Saints are before He brings His wrath upon the world. He knows who we are and everything that is done by Him is ultimately for our benefit. His wrath upon the world is never directly directed at His people, but it is done to bring more to repentance. This does not mean that we are promised that it is all going to be easy. But you can rejoice that even in your worst moments God has you sealed and is with you. Your tribulation is only temporary. You are part of His holy people.

In the next part of John's vision from Jesus, He saw the throne of God surrounded by people of every tribe and nation worshipping the Lamb (Jesus). An angel goes on to tell John that these are the saints that came out of the great tribulation (that is the world that we live in). "They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb." The angel continues to tell John that God will give them an eternal life away from all that grieved us in this world. Dear Christian, this is what awaits you. This has been promised to you on the cross, in the empty tomb, and in your baptism.

Every religion and the gross majority of people believe in some sort of life after death. Only we as Christians have the tangible and objective evidence that this true. Only we have the promise of salvation that comes from God alone. The Word of God given through the testimony of Christ's witnesses declares that Jesus is God, and that He rose again from the dead. The Holy Spirit testifies to this too. As Jesus lives again, so will you in eternal paradise.

How do we teach this to our children?

1. Heaven may be easier for children to grasp than for some adults. There are true atheists that believe that death is the end, but they are actually a great minority. Most people naturally believe that there is something more in this life. So, our kids can grasp the concept of Heaven as well.
2. The beautiful thing of the Gospel is how simple it actually is. Believe in Jesus and what He did for us and we get to Heaven. Kids can grasp it, and the earlier this taught to them, the easier it is for them to do so.
3. When someone close to them dies, don't deny them hope of the truth eternal life with Jesus. It is meant to comfort us.
4. Remember if you have questions, God has given you a pastor to answer those questions. Your pastor wants nothing more than to see you and your children at the throne of God with our robes washed in the blood of the Lamb. I am in your corner.

**Has this been helpful? Why/why not? Do you have any suggestions? Pastor Joel would really appreciate your feedback! Please contact him at luckemeyerj@gmail.com Thanks!**