

Sunday, November 9, 2025 – All Saints Observed

What We Will See

Revelation 21:3-4, John 11:40

I sometimes overthink things, just ask Toby. How do I look? Is my makeup okay? Do you like this outfit? Maybe I should change. Who is going to be at the party? What am I going to talk about? I'm so boring, everyone is funnier than I am. I'm nervous about going. Maybe I should stay home. What book should I buy? What if I don't like it? Should I really spend the money on it? I guess I'll just wait until next week. We go on vacation and I have to pack extra outfits, extra shoes, extra jewelry... just in case. I overthink.

When it comes to Heaven, I think we all overthink it once in a while, too. We wonder where Heaven actually is – is it up there on one of those clouds? We want to know if the streets are really going to be made of gold. What are we going to wear? What will we do? Will we get bored? We want to know who we're going to see – hopefully our relatives and friends. Many of us have our #1 question ready to ask Jesus as soon as He has time for us.

Why can't we just keep it simple? What did we hear in today's readings? I want to look at 2 points: in John 11, Jesus said, *"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"* and in Revelation 21, John heard a loud voice from the throne, saying *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..."*

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God." What is the glory of God? It's the beauty of God's spirit, the beauty of God's holiness; it's God's perfect character, all that God is; it's God's goodness and love revealed; it's the radiance of God's power and splendor, His majesty. God's glory is eternal; it inspires wonder, amazement, respect, surprise; there is no equal. And some day, we who know Jesus, are going to see it. We are going to be in the presence of God's glory!

Why worry about what Heaven is going to be like? Try, instead, to imagine, if it is at all possible, what it is going to be like to be in the presence of God's infinite, amazing, awe inspiring, everlasting, unequalled glory! Just imagining what this will be like will keep us too busy to worry about all our other questions!

Artists have imagined this for centuries ... hence some of the most awe-inspiring artwork and beautiful pieces of music. Writers write poetry to try to capture what they imagine being in God's presence will be like. We dream dreams in wonder of God's glory.

From Revelation: *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..."* ... a passage that I often use for funerals.

While we exist here on earth, we suffer; we are in fear; we hurt in our bodies and in our hearts; we are sometimes confused, lost, searching. We are troubled; we worry; we mourn those we have lost. We want to believe the promise found in 2 Corinthians chapter 4 that our *"troubles will last but a moment"* (King James), but sometimes it's hard to see a future free of pain.

What we can believe, and from which we can be comforted, is that those saints, those believers that have gone before us in faith, have found the time and place of *"no more mourning."* Those we miss and grieve are in God's presence and no longer face fear or confusion, troubles, pain or sorrow. That's the promise that's gotten me through losing my dad this summer. We may mourn – but my dad is in the presence of God – there is no pain, no confusion, no mourning.

Today we acknowledge those whom we have lost this year – as well as some who never had the opportunity to have the bell tolled for them – holding fast to the promise that we, too, will be in God's presence, experiencing His peace – if we just believe in Jesus as our Savior.

We can believe that we are saints on earth – being continually transformed by the Holy Spirit, allowing God's presence to be an impact on our lives – how we live, how we love, how we believe, how we become more like Jesus every day.

Stop over-thinking and trust that one day, the tender, comforting hand of God will reach toward us, will gently place a finger below our eye and wipe away the tears, the very last remnant of our very last tear and God will smile at us, He

will lift us up and reveal His glory – that all-encompassing, everlasting love and power that will remain with us forevermore.

What could be better than that?