

All Souls Day

Who do you trust? Really – without doubt, totally, completely, 100%?

That's an important question for a day like today

Yesterday was ALL SAINTS DAY – recall all those whose lives so holy we KNOW they're in heaven SAINTS

Today is ALL SOULS DAY we recall EVERYONE who as died – my uncle Lawrence, Granpa, Granma . . .

It's easy on a day like today to focus on death – after all, it focuses on those that have died

Now, there is 1 thing that's certain about death – it will come for all of us

a. Small parish priest was preaching said “Everyone in this parish is going to die”

b. From the back, laughing, “I'm not from this parish”

Foolish – we all die, so we need to prepare -- HOW DO WE DO THAT

I think the answer is in the Psalm we had today – Psalm 23

Do we trust God the same way a sheep trusts his shepherd?

To prepare for death we need to trust God the promises of God just as completely:

The Lord is my shepherd, with Him there is nothing I shall want.

Sheep trust their shepherd for everything:

He leads them to Green Pastures

Beside Restful waters

He refreshes my soul

He guides me on the right paths

Even with things go wrong, when trials and darkness come

He is by my side, with His rod and staff He will protect me

He spreads a table before me – my cup overflows

Goodness and Kindness follow me, all the days of my life **AND BEYOND!**

We can trust the promises of God – and He promises **resurrection**

Jesus conquered death – we have no need to fear it – and we too will rise on the last day
(even though I walk thru the dark valley I fear no evil for you are there to protect me)

By their lives we know saints TRUSTED Jesus, the Good Shepherd

ALL those who have died – ALL SOULS – may not be declared “Saints” by the church

BUT – we call them “Souls of the faithful departed who rest in peace”

That is what they are FAITHFUL – DEPARTED – and they REST IN eternal PEACE

And so can we.

WISDOM

“God tried them and found them worth of Himself, as gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings He took them to himself”

“Those who TRUST in Him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with Him in love”

- What Good news! – and this is the OLD Testament

ROMANS

“We know our old self was crucified with Christ so our sinful body might be done away with, that we may no longer be a slave to sin . . . if we have died with Christ we believe we shall live with Him” Now THAT is GOOD NEWS

GOSPEL JOHN

Jesus said “This is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

The Good Shepherd came for me and for you

To lead us to green pastures, besides restful waters, to refresh my soul, to guide me on the right paths

To protect us with His rod and His staff when we walk thru darkness

He spreads a table before me – my cup overflows

Goodness and Kindness follow me, all the days of my life