

How Are Our Departed Loved Ones? (Revelation 7:9-17)

Introduction: *“I love a parade...”*

- I. ON ALL SAINTS DAY WE SEE A PARADE OF THE SAINTS OF GOD
 - A. Old Testament Saints, New Testament Saints, Early Church Saints, Reformers...
 - B. A faithful sainted grandmother, father, spouse, Sunday School teacher...
 - C. Is fellowship possible with these departed ones?
 - D. Where are these saints? (See: **Revelation 7:9**)

- II. THESE DEPARTED SAINTS ARE PRECIOUS TO GOD
 - A. **Psalm 116:15** – *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”*
 - B. We see the **home-leaving....** The Psalmist sees the **home-coming**
 - C. St. John sees them – confident, white-robed, forgiven, celebrating (**Rev. 7**)
 - D. *Waving palm branches (Rev. 7:9-10):* a symbol of victory!

- III. THESE DEPARTED SAINTS ARE HAPPY AND SECURE
 - A. No hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow... tears wiped away (**Rev. 7:16-17**)
 - B. Luther’s hymn says it well: *And take they our life, goods fame, child and wife, let these all be gone – they yet have nothing won; the KINGDOM ours remaineth.*
 - C. A final question remains: **Is** there any way we may fellowship with the saints as we remain here on earth?
 - D. The place of fellowship is NOT the cemetery, BUT at the communion rail
 - E. Our bond with the saints is our common Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God... **truly present** with His saints on earth & in heaven

Conclusion: The grave marker in Jerusalem: *We’ll meet again at God’s right hand & then we’ll understand*