

**Saints: Forgiven Sinners! (Revelation 7:9-17)**

Introduction: “*Oh when the saints come marching in...*” [A song of celebration]

- 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*

**Over--→**