



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*November 4, 2018*

All Saints' Day

### **Is it the End of the World?**

Bible Reference: Revelation 7:9-17

When I was a little boy I loved the future. It was so intriguing to me. I watched the movie *Back to the Future* a million times, and I was in love with *Back to the Future 2*. When it came to future talk in the Bible, I was equally interested. The future talk in the Bible is not as exciting as *Back to the Future 2*. There is no talk of flying cars and skateboards, but rather a lot scarier stuff about the end of the world. As much as it scared me, I wanted to know more about it. I wanted my pastors to teach on Revelation, which portrayed the future so scary. I wanted to understand this crazy book and everything that was in it. My dad had exposed me to many churches willing to talk about it, but they focused on fear. They basically scared people into heaven. That left me with a big question—why did the Lutheran church shy away from talking about Revelation when other churches did not? When I started my journey to be a pastor I promised I would not shy away from the book of Revelation. Even if I can't explain it all, I would make sure to still preach and teach it.

All Saints' Day, the first day of November, is often celebrated the first Sunday of the month. It has always been a day to celebrate those wonderful saints who have died believing in Christ. This is a triumphant day, not a sad day. While at times death can be scary based upon the unknown factors, All Saints' Day was meant to speak the Word of God to the church—that because of Jesus our future is certain. Certain, that is, we are 100% sure that because of the death and resurrection of Jesus we know we will be with Him. Some call this Christian hope. I think the word "hope" is confusing since the world uses the word "hope" to mean wish or maybe. That is definitely not the meaning here. There is no wish or maybe about it. It is certain!

For some, the book of Revelation has taken on a worldly theme: the fear of the future. We have many fears about the future—fears about our health, retirement, old age and who our kids will become. But All Saints' Day, the book of Revelation, and ultimately—Jesus—gives us a much better picture of the future! It is simple; [Christian] hope drives out fear. When you are *certain* that one day there will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more suffering, fear is lost. Yet, All Saints' Day is even bigger than just that; we are celebrating that one day we will be reunited with the Father! There is nothing scary about that. This week we dive deeper into a book that can be confusing, but holds a message that is so important. Jesus loves you so much He died and rose again for you!

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*