

Nov. 6, 2017
Aveleigh's; All Saints' Day Observance
Sermon: Happiness Eternal
Res. Ps.49;1-15 p.611 & **Phil. 4 21-23 p.1262**

1 Cor. 15:35 But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" NIV

Intro: All Saints Day, All Hallows Eve (saints) or Halloween

Is there life after death? "Theologians can debate all they want, but radiation oncologist Dr. Jeffrey Long says if you look at the scientific evidence, the answer is unequivocally yes. " Time Magazine: Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, *Is There Such a Thing as Life After Death?*, Laura Fitzpatrick.

1. IN ETERNITY YOU WILL HAVE AN ETERNAL BODY

Luke 16:22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up.....NIV

2. IN ETERNITY YOU WILL BE RECOGNIZABLE

Mat. 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."NIV

3. IN ETERNITY YOUR MEMORY WILL BE INTACT

John 20: 16-17 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, NIV

4. IN ETERNITY YOU RETAIN YOUR PERSONALITY

Mat. 18:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.NIV

5. IN ETERNITY YOU WILL RETAIN YOUR IDENTITY

John 20:28 NIV Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

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Leader: For all the saints, O God, who from their labors rest,

People: We glorify your name!

Leader: Vast has been the number of your saints, some famous, most recorded, except in your Book of Life.

People: We dedicate this service to the celebration of their witness and of their deeds.

Leader: For all your saints, O God, and especially for those who loved and served you within the fellowship of this congregation,

All: We magnify your holy name! Amen.

Father, When we are called saints the idea jars us, for we do not feel worthy to be called saintly people. But we are seekers after God's will, who have been powerfully claimed by Jesus Christ. Remembering who we are intended to be. Forgive us for all that spoils our lives. Forgive us because though we have seen a vision of your holiness, we have easily put it at the back of our minds. Forgive us because we think we can earn a place in your affections, and so easily forget that place has been bought for us at great cost by Christ.

Forgive us for not following the example of so many worthy saints who have gone before us. We tend to put them high on a shelf and forget to follow their lead. Forgive us our complacency, our lack of obedience to your call, and thus assure us of our forgiveness in Christ.