

## **Bible Study on lessons for All Saints Sunday**

**Good morning-good afternoon or good evening!**

**Let's begin this weeks study by reading Isaiah 25:6-9. Isaiah is speaking to his people during the time when the southern kingdom of Judah was threatened by the powerful nation of Assyria. Isaiah wants the people to see that these terrible threats they face are not just because of Assyria, but they also come from their sin and disobedience to God. He calls the people to live a life of repentance and justice. He goes on to warn them that failure to listen to God would bring them nothing but pain and sorrow. But he does not leave them without any hope as you can see from the verses you have just read. Isaiah describes a time to come which will be like a great banquet prepared by God. Not only will all the nations join in this great feast, but God will destroy the sorrow that has plagued the land. He goes on to paint this wonderful vision of death being removed, tears wiped away along with the disgrace and shame that people have endured. Then in verse 9b the people respond.**

**Question: how do you respond to this vision?**

**Now read Psalm 22:1-5 the psalms are this amazing collection of prayers and hymns to God. They are written as honest appeals to God, and they come straight from the heart. They cover all our human emotions. This portion of Psalm 22 is a cry of anguish to God. The writer of the psalm is in a terrible situation, and it is so bad that he feels as if God has abandoned him. He has been constantly calling out to God. All day and night he cries, but to no avail. God is silent.**

**Question: Where do you turn for help when even God seems to be silent to your pleas?**

## **Page 2**

**In verses 4 and 5 we see that the Psalmist turns to his ancestors for help. He describes how during their times of danger they turned to God.....and he answered them. They escaped from their dangerous situation. They trusted in God and were not disappointed. So it stands to reason that if it worked for them it might work for us! This is the week-end in worship when we remember those loved ones who have gone before us. Yes we miss them very much, but we can have our hope restored when we remember their faith and how it helped them during their times of strife.**

**Now read Hebrews 12:1-3 this is the text most often used on All Saints Sunday, and no wonder! It is a marvelous vision. What a joy and comfort to believe that we are literally surrounded by the Saints of God. So as you prepare for this worship think back upon those "Saints" in your life and draw strength and hope from them.**

**Now read John 15:12-17 this is part of that great section in the Gospel of John where our Lord is preparing his disciples for life without him. Jesus knows his fate. He knows that He must die so that all may live, and that He will no longer be with his most trusted followers. So he gives them words of instruction on how to live without his physical presence. This has to be one of the most intimate reflections in scripture. Jesus loves his disciples and his command is that we love each other as He has first loved us.**

**Folks it just doesn't get any better than that!**

**Have a great week.**

**PM**