

All Saints' Day (November 1)

November 1, 2025

I. Introduction

- A. This is a sermon for something. Yet, by being for something you often are against something else.
- B. Today we will study the history behind All Saints' Day and Halloween.

II. All Saints' Day

- A. Historically
 - 1. It might go back as far as the first century when each Christians\martyr's day of death was celebrated.
 - 2. Due to so many special days, they were eventually celebrated on one day. This day was called Martyr's Remembrance Day".
 - 3. According to Ephraem Syrus (306 – 373) there was an annual festival for all martyrs on May 13.
 - 4. Pope Boniface II (530-532) broadened the festival to include "the blessed Mary and all saints".
 - 5. Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated a chapel in honor of "All Saints" and moved the day of the celebration from May 13 to November 1.
 - 6. As All Saints' Day became more widespread, the evening preceding it took on more significance. It was called "Holy Evening", "Hallowed Evening" and finally "Halloween".
- B. Today
 - 1. October 31 (Halloween) has supplanted the celebration of All Saints' Day.
 - 2. All Saints' Day is a celebration of life and victory.
 - 3. Satan loves to steal our holidays.
 - a. Did you know that retail wise Halloween is second only to Christmas in dollars spent.
- C. What can/should we do?
 - 1. First of all, I am not suggesting that you go on a crusade against Halloween.
 - 2. As I stated at the beginning of the sermon, by being for something you are often automatically against something else.
 - 3. Read Fox's Book of Martyrs

- 4. Remember, Martin Luther posted his 95 Thesis on the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517 which started the Protestant Reformation
- 5. A brief account of Polycarp's death
- 6. The death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr – Acts 7