

## Second Hand Preacher

### *All Saints*

November 1, 2015

#### **1 John 3:1-3**

St. John starts out by calling his community beloved. This shows affection to what scripture scholars often refer to as the Johannine community. They are the Christians who were evangelized by John and from his preaching they love Jesus. They follow his way. Some of the community had never met Jesus, but, like us, must rely on the Word of God written by the Apostles. Through the faith of the Apostles comes the love of Jesus for both Apostles and their community.

John preaches that they are children of God and not in this world. The world doesn't know God and we, like John's community, are called to be like God. We are to be disciples connected to the Church. The Church was smaller and more dangerous in John's time than it is now. But we need to be ready for persecution. Christians in the Middle East were persecuted and made to leave their homeland. This is the cause of much pain in our church. The persecution affects us when the unborn are slaughtered. Even though they are not baptized, they are linked to us and by our desire have a special place in the communion of the saints. Our God is all-loving, and would he welcome the least of these with open arms?

It is true that John believed in life everlasting. Our belief in the communion of the saints is foundational to our faith. We hold certain that John's community and our community are part of the larger church. We are composed of the living and the dead. We believe that those who have entered communion with God pray for us. On this weekend, that helps us recall the unknown saints who have lived lives of virtue and strong faith. John believed in Christ giving us a gentle path toward Jesus.