

Text: [1 John 2:28-3:3 \(CEB\)](#)

Date: November 2, 2025

Title: “God Sees You” – All Saints’ Sunday 2025

Theme: Even when we perceive the good we do is unseen, God sees.

1

How many times in your life have you felt like your efforts went unnoticed, unremarked, or unappreciated?
Maybe it was something you were doing for your family – getting ready for a family party, maybe for Thanksgiving

Or maybe it was at work –
Have you ever imagined quitting, just so people could finally see how things would fall apart if you weren’t around?
I’m sure that’s not an uncommon feeling when folks have hard days

Perhaps you’ve even felt that here at Church – like your thoughts, ideas, or work weren’t received in the way you were hoping
Let me say first – if you’ve felt that way here, I am sorry for any part I played in that
And I’d be happy to talk with you about it

The reality is, it’s not uncommon for us to feel unseen
I often experience it too
All of us do – we all experience that ache in our hearts sometimes
Of wanting to make a difference, and feeling like maybe people just aren’t seeing it

2

Today we are gathered to give thanks for the saints
To celebrate the lives of those who have gone on to glory
And to find encouragement and hope for the days we still have in front of us

Now the saints we celebrate today
Were not famous by the world's standards
They didn't carry lofty titles, or privilege, or rank

And yet, we honor them today – not because of what they did,
necessarily
Though certainly they did A LOT for us, both as individuals and
the Church

Instead, we honor them because faith revealed them to us NOT
as the world sees them
But as God sees them

The author of the first letter of John says it this way:
“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should
be called God's children, and that is what we are!
Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us.”
(1 John 3:1)
The world doesn't see, but God does

3

When I look over the list of our church's saints, I can name a
reason to give thanks for each and every one of them

One was there faithfully every time we had a mailing to send out
One I knew as a woman of devout and fervent prayer
One faithfully managed the church's money for many years
One worked for the FBI, keeping us safe
One had a retirement job helping a stroke victim to recover her
speech

I could name something special about each of our church's saints
And I'm sure you could say something special about those you've
lifted up to be remembered today

Maybe something wonderful no one else knows they did
Like how they showed you to drive a car
Or make a favorite meal
Or be a parent

The saints we remember are not photoshopped pictures of
perfection
We know they were flawed too – like every human
But our saints are those who kept showing up and kept trying
Even when no one noticed
Even when it seemed no one cared

Their faithfulness was rooted not in the world's ability to see them
Or even in *OUR* ability to see them
But rather in *GOD'S* ability to see them
And in their willingness to trust in the promises
Even on those days when the good they did might have felt
overlooked or ignored

The beauty of the Church is this – and it's the reason why we
celebrate All Saints' Day
There are so many whose names may never be in lights
But who are most certainly written into the Book of Life

"Don't worry if the world doesn't recognize you," we read in 1
John
"Because it didn't recognize Jesus, either!"

4

"Dear friends, we are God's children"
And that needs to be enough for now

We don't serve or love or forgive to be recognized for it
Over and over again, Jesus warned us about seeking recognition
this side of heaven

We do it because those who are born of God do these things
They can't help it

Our loved ones who have gone on to glory are already perfected
I trust that all their rough edges have been worn away and
polished until they are the very best versions of themselves
that you can possibly imagine

Those of us walking around down here are the saints-in-progress
Living out of the knowledge that we are already called God's
children

Already loved as members of Christ's own family
And knowing that love requires something of us

5

All of us have certain things our families value
For example, always keeping your word
Putting family first
Or making your own way

Those might be family values for you
And if they were drilled into your head for years
You just do them
You make decisions and live your life based on them

It's the same way with Jesus' family values
We love, we serve, we stand up for what's right
Because that's what it means to be born of God

Even if we do it imperfectly
Even if we grumble sometimes that no one sees

That no one cares, that no one knows
The reality is that GOD sees, GOD cares, and GOD knows

5

And there will come a day, as is promised in today's scripture
That what we WILL be is finally revealed
That all of our love
All of our care
All of our compassion
All of our hard work

Will be revealed in glory
As God's will for us
As God's calling at work in us

There will be a day when OUR names will be read here at this
table
When the bell will be rung, a candle will be lit
When WE will be remembered

And a story will be told by someone
About an act of love
An act of kindness WE did

Something maybe no one else in the whole world saw –
But THEY noticed
And GOD noticed

So when the world doesn't see you trying to do the right thing
To do the loving thing, even when it's hard
When it feels like the world doesn't know or doesn't see

Know that God does
God knows.
God sees.
And in the end, that is enough.

Amen.

By Joe Monahan, Medford UMC, Medford NJ