

Charles St-Onge
All Saints Sunday B
November 5, 2006

Remember, Remember

This year saw the release of another movie based on a graphic novel – you may know them as “comic books.” “V for Vendetta” tells the story of a post-apocalyptic British society under the tight control of a government that has suspended basic civil rights. Rising out of this society comes a man calling himself V. By a series of dramatic acts he calls on the people to rise up and overthrow their government to restore law and order. He wears the mask of Guy Fawkes, a man who is still remembered every 5th of November on Guy Fawkes day as the “Osama Bin Laden” of his day. The movie begins with this narration, starting with an old British nursery rhyme:

Remember, remember the 5th of November
The gunpowder, treason and plot
I know of no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever long be forgot

But what of the *man*?
I know his name was Guy Fawkes
And I know in 1605 he attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament
But who was he really?
What was he like?

We are told to remember the idea, not the man, because a man can fail
He can be caught, he can be killed and forgotten
But 400 years later an idea can still change the world

I've witnessed first hand the power of ideas
I've seen people kill in the name of them
And die defending them

But you cannot kiss an idea
You cannot touch it or hold it
Ideas do not bleed,
they do not feel pain,
and they do not love

And it is not an idea that I miss
It is a man
A man who made me remember the 5th of November
A man that I will never forget

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I. Why Remembering is Important

Why is remembering so important?

Because remembrance is a gift from God

We remember the past,

Because the past points us to the future

We are not caught in an endless loop of mornings and evenings without end

But we are moving forward to the **Great Day** at the **End of Time**

All Saints is a day for remembering the history

Of which our departed Christian brothers and sisters are a part

They are the SAINTS of GOD

They are a part of his HOLY HISTORY

And will have an important part to play in the Lord's HOLY FUTURE

**THEY WILL BE THERE at the end of time
AND THAT IS WHAT WE REMEMBER
THIS FIFTH OF NOVEMBER
AND PLEDGE THAT WE'LL NEVER FORGET**

II. Remembering in the Bible

A) The word REMEMBER is used over 166 times in the Bible

The LORD uses it, when speaking of his PROMISES to US

His promise to REDEEM us,

to SAVE us from slavery,

to make us a great nation,

to raise us from the dead

Our people use it a couple of ways:

To the Lord, that he might remember his promises

And of ourselves, that we might remember our promises to the Lord

To serve and obey only him

And to forsake all others

B) The word REMEMBER is part of the most important moments of Scripture:

Te REASON for the HEBREW'S SLAVERY,

That a Pharaoh arose who no longer REMEMBERED Joseph

Used in MOSES's great SERMON of DEUTERONOMY,

Uses it over 15 times

Used in all the Easter accounts,

As the disciples REMEMBER what the Lord had said about

His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of the sin of the world

Used in the LORD'S SUPPER,
That by eating and drinking his body and blood
We might remember the forgiveness of sins won for us at the cross,
Promised by the prophets and proclaimed by the apostles

III. Remembering and All Saints Day

Today we remember loved ones departed in the name of the Lord,
Those waiting under the altar of the Lamb
For the final resurrection of the dead

We remember all the great and wonderful promises the Lord has made to us,
The CHIEF of which is to REMEMBER and not FORGET us
That we NEVER SLIP THE LORD'S MIND
That we are EVER BEFORE HIS FACE

That 'PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD
IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS' (Psalm 116:15)

We remember the one who has MADE US SAINTS
The MAN, JESUS, the SON OF GOD
Whose blood sanctifies us and make us right with God
Without whom we would remain under the wrath of God
Condemned because of our sin to remain
Forever banished from his presence

We remember the MAN,
Because it is not Jesus' IDEAS that free us from the slavery of sin,
JESUS' IDEAS do not make us HOLY BEFORE THE FATHER,
HIS LIFE and DEATH for the SIN OF THE WORLD do

And so ALL SAINTS is not about the morality and teachings of a bunch of
Holy Dead People.

It is the REMEMBRANCE of a MAN who makes his MEN AND WOMEN HOLY
Not by what he SAID, but by WHAT HE DID

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So remember, remember this 5th of November
The church that our Lord Jesus bought
I know of no reason why his crucifixion
Should ever long be forgot

We ought to remember the man, not the idea, because ideas can fail
They can be twisted, and distorted, and even lost
But 2000 years later one man still changes the world

You cannot kiss an idea
You cannot touch it or hold it
Ideas do not bleed,
they do not feel pain,
and they do not love

So it is not an idea we celebrate today
It is a man
A man we remember this 5th of November
A man we will never forget

Amen