

## The happy and the pitiful (Saint Silouan the Athonite)

[Ξένες γλώσσες / In English](#)

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How

fortunate we Orthodox Christians are! What a God we have! People who don't know God are in a sorry state. They don't see the eternal light and after death they go into eternal darkness. We know this because the Holy Spirit informs the saints, through the Church, as to what happens in heaven and in hell. Deluded people are pitiable. They can't know what real joy is. Occasionally they'll enjoy themselves and laugh, but the laughter and enjoyment they experience will turn into lamentation and sorrow. Our joy is Christ. Through His passion, He's written us in the book of life, and in the kingdom of heaven we'll be with God for eternity. We'll behold His glory and will rejoice with Him. Our joy is the Holy Spirit. He's so sweet and agreeable. He it is Who testifies in our soul about salvation.