

## **“Blessed Are the Dead Who Die in the Lord”**

### **(Revelation 14:13)**

The subject of death is one of the most interesting and controversial subjects in our society. On the one hand for a lot of people they don't want to talk about it (they don't want to even fathom the possibility). But on the other hand, many people find the subject to be truly fascinating! Think of all the movies made on the subject the last couple of decades. Think about the hundreds of books that have been published on the subject. Think about how so many seem to be captivated by the near death experiences of others and what these people claim to have “seen” when they visited the “other side.”

Why are so many captivated by the subject of death? Consider a few reasons:

- Death dwells in the realm of the unknown. No one here has died before (James 1:26).
- People say so many different things about death. Some say that once you die that's it; you are done and there is nothing else to look forward to. Others say after death you will be reincarnated, or become one with nature. And still others say that death is like taking a long nap until you are awakened by God at some point in the future.

If you want to know the truth about death, then you have to read the Bible. In Revelation 14:13, we learn of two specific blessings that the people of God will enjoy at death.

#### **I. They will be blessed with rest (Revelation 14:13a).**

- A. Towards the end of the first century the people of God were being persecuted severely by the Roman Empire (Revelation 2:10, 13; 1:9). God offered this blessing as an incentive for them to remain in His army. He would ultimately bring down Rome, and even if they died before then, they would be better off than they were before (Philippians 1:23; Revelation 2:10; 14:13; 6:11). The word “rest” that is used means to be refreshed and well-rested from the burdens, struggles and persecutions of life.
- B. This continues to be an incentive to be faithful and loyal to God today. Those who die in the Lord will receive...
  1. Rest from persecution.
  2. Rest from temptation (1 Peter 5:8).
  3. Rest from the daily rigors of life.

#### **II. They will be blessed to have their deeds follow them (Revelation 14:13b).**

- A. God wanted the persecuted Christians in the first century to understand that He knew who they were and He would remember how they had lived.
  1. He knew their deeds as local churches (Revelation 2-3).
  2. He knew their deeds as individuals (Revelation 2:13).
- B. Our righteous deeds are among the few things that will follow us once we die.
  1. God knows us (Psalm 8:3-6).
  2. God ensures that our labors for Him will not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

**Conclusion:** For God's people, death is a blessing, not a cursing.