

Revelation 14:13

First RPC Durham

I. Blessed Are the Dead Which Die in the Lord

- A.** Not that death itself is blessed, since it arose from the curse of the fall (Rom 5:12)
- B.** This blessing is reserved only for those in the state of grace (Psa 32:1-2)
- C.** This blessing is to go from grace to glory
 - 1)** The surety of eternal life (Jn 3:16)
 - 2)** The goodness of heaven (Rev 22:3-4)
 - 3)** The eternal joy of heaven (Ezk 47:3-5)
- D.** This blessing is hard to believe, yet it is confirmed further in the text — *Write . . . Saith the Spirit* (Isa 40:8)
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We are to meditate upon the fact of our death
 - a)** Not morbidly, with consistent solemnity, which is to view life under the sun (Eccl 1:2-3)
 - b)** With the fact of reality (Psa 90:10)
 - c)** With the hope of eternity (Isa 33:17)
 - 2)** We are to ensure that we are in the Lord. Do you know this blessing?
 - 3)** We ought to receive great comfort from this passage (Psa 116:15; Phil 3:20, 4:1)

II. They Shall Rest from their Labours

- A.** Which shows that we must now be labouring (Ex 20:9-10a; Col 3:17)
- B.** Heaven is the eternal Sabbath (Heb 4:10-11; Rev 21:3-4)
- C.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** Let us be diligent in our labours as unto the Lord regardless of the cost (Rev 12:11,)
 - 2)** Let us not grow weary in our labours, but rather be of good courage (Josh 1:9)

- 3)** We ought to make diligent use of the Sabbath in this life, seeing it is a preparation for eternity.

III. Their Works Do Follow Them

- A.** Our works shall follow us — Matthew Henry, 'Their works follow them; they do not go before them as their title, or price of purchase, but follow them as evidence of having lived and died in the Lord; and the memory of them will be pleasant, and the reward glorious, far above the merit of all their services and sufferings.'
- B.** Which is true of eternity
 - 1)** We shall be judged for our thoughts, words, and deeds (Mt 12:36)
 - 2)** We shall receive reward for our faithfulness (Mt 25:29-30)
- C.** Which is true of these who do come after us and will follow in our way (2 Kgs 21:21; 2 Tim 1:5)
- D.** This is only true because of Christ's resurrection (1 Cor 15:58)
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** The free offer of the Gospel.
 - 2)** Let us consider what we desire to be our legacy (Pr 13:22)
 - 3)** Let us steward well that which we have been given. (Jdg 2:8, 10; 2 Tim 1:13; 1 Cor 10:6).
 - 4)** Let us be committed to good works (1 Kgs 18:21)
 - 5)** Let us maintain a clear conscience before the Lord, always ready to give an account.
 - a)** Regarding our thoughts, words, and deeds (Lk 19:8-9)
 - b)** Regarding our faith (1 Jn 5:13)