

Life's Last Beatitude - "Blessed in Death, Resting in Christ"

Revelation 14:6-13

A. The Divine Declaration of Blessing

1. We're familiar with the beatitudes of Jesus.
2. Here is a beatitude spoken by an unknown voice from heaven.
3. *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying..."*
4. This is not man's opinion, but a message directly from heaven, divine assurance.
5. The context of Rev 14 is Heaven, where John sees visions of the end times.
6. We have 3 angelic messages based around the gospel, judgment, & endurance.
7. They emphasize hope, perseverance, and eternal reward for the faithful.
8. These three angels act as messengers, bringing vital declarations to the world.
9. Their proclamations offer hope, warning, and a call to action.
10. We have a world that often overlooks or persecutes the faithful.
11. This verse reminds us that God sees, knows, & blesses His people even in death.
12. It is a beatitude of comfort for all who have lost loved ones.
13. God values and honours the faithful who persevere even unto death.
14. This is a beatitude for the end of a believer's life. *"Blessed are the dead."*
15. Is this true? The key to this mystery is the identity of the blessed.
16. *"...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."*
17. Not all death is a blessing — the key is being "in the Lord."
18. "In the Lord" signifies union with Christ, those who trust & follow Him in life.
19. Paul often used the phrase to describe the saved (cf. Romans 8:1).
20. Eternal rest & blessing belong to those who belong to Him.

B. The Promise & Blessing of Rest

1. *"...that they may rest from their labours..."*
1. The setting of this beatitude is the Tribulation period on earth
 - a. One hundred forty-four believers followed the Lamb (vv. 1-5)
 - b. These people were preachers of the gospel (v. 6)
 - c. They had undergone great persecution, even martyrdom
 - d. Now they had found rest with their Lord
2. Many are weary from long years of labor, hard trials, or years of sickness
3. Heaven will bring long-awaited rest.
4. This verse implies a life of labour, sacrifice, and endurance.
5. God promises relief from toil, a Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9-11).
6. No more suffering, pain, or spiritual battles.
7. Eternal rest is coming to those who faithfully endure.

C. The Blessing of Rewards – The Enduring Legacy of Faith

1. *"...for their deeds follow them!"*
2. The deeds "follow" — not precede — indicating the fruit of salvation.
3. We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.
4. We are His workmanship, created to do good works
5. What we do for Christ matters and has eternal significance.
6. These deeds don't save us but are evidence of a life transformed by grace.
7. The believer's good works bring rewards in heaven
 - a. Rewards for enduring persecution for Christ (Matt. 5:12)
 - b. Rewards for loving enemies and doing good (Luke 6:35)
 - c. Rewards for faithful service (1 Cor. 3:8-14)
 - d. Rewards for serving willingly (1 Cor. 9:17)
8. The faithful few who serve so well now will be rewarded then.
9. Invest in what lasts — the kingdom of God.
10. The saved will have the blessing of reunion with believing loved ones.
11. Our Lord offered comforting words to His disciples (John 14:1-3)
 - a. They were not to be troubled by His coming death
 - b. He was going to prepare a place for them
 - c. They would meet Him in heaven and be with Him forever
12. We'll enjoy the "no mores" of heaven: (Rev. 21:4)

D. The Call for Patient Endurance (Rev 14:12-13)

1. The saints are those who "keep the commandments of God & the faith of Jesus."
2. This is a call to persevere despite persecution, temptation, or hardship.
3. The faithful must hold firm to the gospel, regardless of what the world offers.
4. Are we clinging to God's Word and trusting in His promises during trials?
5. Every believer dies with a beatitude.
6. We can be sure that the best is yet to come. (Rom. 8:18)

E. Conclusion:

1. Remember to live in the light of eternity.
2. Revelation 14:13 is both comfort and motivation.
3. Death is not the end; for the Christian, it's the doorway to eternal rest & reward.
4. The ultimate reward for the saints is eternal rest in God's presence.
5. Life may be filled with challenges; this promise is to those who remain faithful.
6. The three angels' messages are both a warning and an encouragement.
7. Fear God, reject the ways of the world, & remain faithful to Jesus Christ.
8. We are invited to live faithfully, knowing that the hour of judgment is coming.
9. Let us take heed, endure in faith, and hold fast to the gospel.
10. Let us live faithful, fruitful lives so that we, too, may hear those glorious words:
11. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."*