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From Where I Sit . . .

“Blessed Are Those Who Die In The Lord”

The book of **Revelation** is a wonderful book, yet many people find it very frightening because of all the symbols and the great difficulty we have understanding it all. To simplify the book, however, one could say accurately that it was written to show John things that “must shortly come to pass,” and was written for the **purpose of helping real people in a real world** look beyond distress and persecution to the victory that is assured in Jesus Christ.

Victory assured to the faithful is the overall theme of the book. Jesus is portrayed as the lamb that was slain and has prevailed. Overcoming saints are pictured as reigning with the Lord in the beautiful city of God. In **Revelation 14:13**, John hears a voice that pronounces a state of blessedness upon those who “*die in the Lord.*” They shall “*rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.*”

Earlier, Jesus had pronounced special blessedness, or happiness in the **Sermon on the Mount** of **Matthew Chapter 5** (9 different times) upon those who are “**Poor in Spirit,**” “**They that mourn,**” “**The Merciful,**” “**The Meek,**” “**The Pure in Heart,**” “**Those Who Hunger after Righteousness,**” “**The Peacemakers,**” “**They which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,**” and those who are reviled and falsely spoken evil of.

The **Revelation** passage and other scriptures pronounce that our ultimate state of blessedness, joy, and hope lies in the precious provision God has made for a life beyond the grave which is promised us in Jesus Christ. While there are many obstacles that one might have to cross in getting to that goal, the Holy Spirit wants us to see that the reward of eternal life is worth the endeavor and that bliss awaits the faithful.

2 Cor 4:17-18 *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

Revelation 14:13 *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”*

There are two key concepts we need to consider in view of this great promise. **Be Hopeful.** There is rest for the weary. There is Hope in Christ Jesus. The Revelator saw pictures of a new day dawning in a heavenly realm where saints would reign with God forever with no tears, no sorrow, and no pain. Secondly, **Be Faithful.** This promise is only to the faithful – those who die in the Lord – who remain steadfast to the end.

John’s writing in **Revelation 14:13** is as relevant and as needed today as it ever was. Christians need to be reminded of the importance of staying faithful to the Lord and He will give us the great reward which lies beyond the suffering and distress in life.

. . . . Terry Broome