

THE BLESSED OR HAPPY DEAD
(Funeral Sermon)
Rev.14:13
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Rev.14:13 speaks of the “blessed” or “happy” dead: “...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...”
2. It’s hard for many people to believe there is any happiness of any kind associated with physical death.
3. But the true Christian, the truly enlightened and faithful child of God, believes it.
4. Note what one truly converted, faithful servant of God said about it, which proves he believed it. I speak of the apostle Paul.
 - a. 2Cor.5:1: “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (this present body) were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (the resurrected body).”
 - b. Phil.1:21,23: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”
 - c. 2Tim.1:12: “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
 - d. 2Tim.4:6-8: “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”
5. Some things the Bible teaches about death that causes the faithful servant of God to believe there is indeed happiness associated with physical death.

II. DISCUSSION

A. DEATH IS THE GATEWAY TO ETERNAL HAPPINESS FOR PREPARED PEOPLE.

1. God has appointed that all men die once, after this the final judgment when Christ shall appear the 2nd time without sin unto salvation for those whose sins have been put away by his sacrifice.
 - a. Heb.9:26b-28: “...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sins by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

2. Rev.2:10: "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
3. 1Th.4:13-18.
4. Unfortunately not all men are prepared for death thus there is no happiness associated with their death now, nor at the final judgment.

B. WHO ARE THE HAPPY DEAD?

1. Those who died in Christ and rest from their labors, Rev.14:13: "...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works to follow them."
 - a. But to die in the Lord, one must first be in the Lord.
 - b. But the only way one can be in the Lord is by faith to be baptized into him.
 - (1) Rom.6:3-5: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ where baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the death by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."
 - (2) Gal.3:26,27: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
 - (3) Col.2:12: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the death."
 - c. To be baptized into him one must by faith have heard and obeyed the gospel of Christ and thereby be saved, for salvation is in Christ by this means, Mk.16:15,16; Mt.28:18,19; 2Th.1:6-10; 2Tim.2:10.
 2. Those who are faithful unto death, Rev.2:10.
 3. Those who by faith have done his commandments and have a right to the tree of life, Rev.22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."
 4. Not all the death are said to be happy because:
 - a. They died in their sins, not in Christ.
 - b. They died in unbelief and disobedience, not in faith.

C. WHY ARE THE DEAD IN CHRIST HAPPY?

1. They have finished their course in faith, having kept the faith and were ready to be offered, 2Tim.4:6-8.
2. They have won the battle of faith and gained the victory over the world, 1Jno.5:4,5: "For whosoever is born of God over-cometh the world: and this is

the victory that over-cometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that over-cometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

3. They have received the end of their faith, the eternal salvation of their souls:
 - a. 1Pet.1:3-5,9: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”
 - b. 2Pet.1:5-11.

III. CONCLUSION -- In view of this:

1. Let sinners be warned.
2. Let Christians be encouraged.
3. Let the bereaved – those who are bereaved over the loss of the “happy dead” – be comforted.