

A Beatitude of Hope!

--God's Blessing on Those Who Endure--

Meanwhile ...
the saints stand passionately patient, keeping
God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus.

I heard a voice out of Heaven ...
"Write this: Blessed are those who die in the Master
from now on; how blessed to die that way!"

"Yes," says the Spirit, "and blessed rest from their
hard, hard work. None of what they've done is
wasted; God blesses them for it all in the end."

(Revelation 14:12-13 The Message)

Blessed are those who die in the Master from now on ...

- **The heavenly voice ordered John to write, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."** [MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2000). *Revelation 12-22* (p. 103). Chicago: Moody Press.]
- But the most startling pronouncement of blessing in all of Scripture is found in verse 13. Amazingly, this second of seven beatitudes in Revelation pronounces blessing on the dead. Such a thought is incomprehensible to most people, who view death as something to be avoided. "Blessed are the living" would seem a more appropriate motto for most people. [Ibid.]
- The obvious question that the text provokes is "Why are these dead blessed?" The answer it presents is twofold: **The dead in view here are blessed because of how they lived and because of how they died.** [Ibid.]
- No group of believers ever has faced or ever will face stronger assaults on their faith than the Tribulation saints. This large group of believers (7:9, 13-14) will include both Gentiles (7:9) and Jews (12:17). **They will be saved through the ministries of the two**

witnesses (11:3-13) and the 144,000 (7:1-8; 14:1-5). The Tribulation believers will endure the most intense persecution in human history. In Matthew 24:21 Jesus described this period as a time of "great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." So terrible will the conditions be that "unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short" (Matt. 24:22). ... There is no stronger evidence that saving faith perseveres than the reality that the most tested believers in history will maintain their saving faith until the end. [Ibid.]

How blessed to die that way!

