

Elder Bobby Willis



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.”**

“He was a good man!” “She was a sweet mother of Israel.” “He/She was a Godly person.” These are statements made often times when life leaves a good person. There seems to be a good bit of misunderstanding about how our works on earth will affect our status or standing in heaven. The message which John received from the Lord in Revelation 14:13 relates first of how wonderful it is for God’s people when they pass from this sin cursed world to a far better place, referred to as Paradise. Ecclesiastes 7:1 reminds us about two things which are simply better, a good name and the day of one’s death - **“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.”** It did not say that precious ointment or one’s birth was bad, but rather there was something even better than these two things which within their own right cause a good reaction from those affected.

Notice also, that the scripture says, **“Blessed”** then **“from henceforth”** (from this point on). They were surely blessed before, but now the Lord lets us know that we are blessed continually after death. That reassures us that there is life after death, which is glorious because it is in eternity that we will sing praises to God with all the saints who have gone on before us.

Now, as far as the works are concerned, we must remember that our salvation is not, nor shall ever be by our works. Therefore, no works of our own will follow us into heaven since our righteousness is of Christ anyway. How then do these works we have done follow us? What we do and how we live our lives has an affect on others, either positive or negative. God’s people who have put their trust in the Lord and who live positive lives of honoring God, are remembered just that way. Their works of praising God follows their memory for many years to come. Likewise, the unrighteous acts (works) of those who dishonor the Lord will

follow their memory as well. In Revelation 14:13, it is speaking only of those who die in the Lord. They are the same as those who have endeavored to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ, servants who have labored for the cause of Christ, and who have tried to be disciples of Christ. Yes, we all come short of what we should be, but by letting our light so shine while we live out our lives, it reflects honor and praise on our Lord and by memory, follows us for days to come after we leave this old earth. May God grant us the wisdom to do that which will honor Christ even after we are gone. ***Think About IT!***