

# **Blessed are the Dead**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 14:12-13.
- B. The idea of blessed are the dead is unique.
- C. Blessed means happy. (Psalm 1:1; 2:12; 32; 41:1; 65:4; 84:4; 106:3; 112; 119:2; Proverbs 8:34, 32; Matthew 5; James 1:12)
- D. There are seven such beatitudes in the book of Revelation.
- E. The blessed are dead because they lived with perseverance and died with promise.

## II. The perseverance of the saints.

- A.. This means that the elect will never lose their faith.
- B. Their faith and salvation will endure.
- C. It is also called eternal security.
- D. Regenerate people will continue in their faith until the very end.
- E. A huge congregation of martyred saints and preserved Jews will appear in heaven as those who have persevered. (Revelation 7)
- F. God's side.
  - 1. God promises that faith lasts. (Psalm 37, Isaiah 43; 49; 51:6)
  - 2. God's purpose assures it. (John 6:37; Romans 8:28; 11:29)
  - 3. God's power guarantees it. (John 10, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Jude 24, 1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- G. Our side: we must endure. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13)
  - 1. Faith. (Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 3:14)
  - 2. Fear. (Revelation 2-3, Jeremiah 32:40)
  - 3. Love.
  - 4. Obedience.
- H. The faith of true believers never dies. (Hebrews 11:13, 37; 12:1)

I. This doctrine does not guarantee that one will be saved regardless of their belief. (Mark 4:5, 1 John 2:19, Revelation 14)

J. The first evidence of salvation is obedience. (John 8:31; 14:21; 1 John 5:3)

K. The second evidence of salvation is trust and loyalty to Jesus.

III. Death with promise.

A. The believer does not fear death because with it comes promise. (Psalm 115:16, 1 Corinthians 15)

B. The Spirit wants us out of the anguish of life.

C. Believers are blessed in death because...

1. It is rest.

2. It is reward. (Hebrews 6:10, 2 Timothy 4, Revelation 20:12, 1 Corinthians 3)

**Application Questions:**

1. What does the perseverance of the saints mean in relationship to eternal security? Explain.

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2. How would you defend the perseverance of the saints against someone who is arguing against it?

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3. What is the relationship of obedience to a believer's security? Explain.

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