

“Light at the end of the Tunnel”

Revelation 14:12-13

Revelation 14: 12-13 [KJ]

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

[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”

Note

These two verses give us a picture of a person who escapes God’s judgment:

1. That person endures
2. That person obeys God
3. That person remains faithful

Lets take a moment and thank the Lord that He enables us, He empowers us to endure, to obey His Word and to stay faithful!

Revelation 14 began in verses 1-5 with a vivid picture of the 144,000 Jewish virgin men, sealed by God to proclaim the Gospel in Heaven.

- * They are now in Heaven singing praises to the Lord.
- * Sealed and protected by God to fulfill their calling now the Anti-Christ - was allowed to kill them and they stepped into the presence of God
- * Playing and Singing a Redeemed Song.
- * They were sealed in Revelation 7 to proclaim the Gospel and the Anti-Christ marked [but in bondage] those who served satan.

That mark the number of man 666 is put upon the forehead or right hand of those who pledge allegiance to Anti-Christ

* The number 666 is in the Bible and is the number of man - Revelation teaches this to be the mark of the beast – It is said that if the text is read in Arabic, the language reads backward- and does point toward the Muslim's God Allah [all languages flow toward Jerusalem] - now we will see in time how this speculation plays out.

- * The writings of the Koran does state and make the point that Jews, Jerusalem and the cross of Jesus is their enemy.
- * The radical side of the Islamic faith is all ready a great threat to Christianity it could be that a form of the Islamic faith may play a part in the end times.

Now as we studied last week in [Revelation 14: 6-11](#), we found angels announcing the fact that God had pronounced a sentence of damnation on this world system and all those who refuse to believe the Gospel message.

- * The verses tell us about a horrible place called Hell where the lost will suffer in the flames of God's wrath for all eternity.
- * A very horrible picture of the future that awaits every person who lives and dies outside of a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are not saved today, I challenge you to examine your life and where you are headed.

Do you really want to go to Hell?

Do you really want to spend eternity separated from God and from everything of beauty, purity and spirituality?

You do not have to go to Hell!

You can be saved if you will come to Jesus and call on Him by faith.

[Romans 10:9](#)

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”

[Acts 16: 31](#)

“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”

Lets take a moment and pray for the Lost – Lets pray for a Great Harvest of Souls to come to Jesus!

Revelation 14: 12-13 [KJ]

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Here we leave the wrath and judgment of God and now we see God’s grace.

* Having declared His judgment against the wicked, God now demonstrates His grace toward the righteous.

We now see what will happen to the saints of God when they leave this world.

* We have seen the hellish side of death; now let’s examine the heavenly side of death.

Revelation 14: 12a [KJ]

“Here is the patience of the saints...:

The word “patience” literally means “steadfast endurance”

It is the picture of a person who can not be swayed from his simple faith in and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ

* Get this in your heart - In spite of the horrors of the Tribulations Period and the threats of the Antichrist, these believers have remained faithful to their Lord.

* They refused to bow to this world.

* They refused to give their worship to the Devil.

* They have endured every attack and every affliction with the confident knowledge that their God was executing an eternal plan.

They were faithful even unto the death, knowing that, in the end, their faith would be vindicated and Satan and his kingdom would be judged.

These people knew that they were part of the victorious people God, even while they suffered!

- * That is a lesson that we would do well to learn in our day
- * This world and the devil are always trying to get us to compromise

It would cause Him to write “Ichabod” above our door - like He has in countless other churches

The best course of action in this day is the same course of action chosen by the saints in these verses.

It is the course of action articulated by the Apostle Paul in:

1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye *stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding* in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”

- * We are to stay the course for the glory of God!
- * Lets thank the Lord that we can stay the course – steadfast / un-moveable / and always abounding in the WORK OF THE LORD!

Revelation 14: 12a [KJ]

“Here is the *patience of the saints...*”

The word “*patience*” literally means “*steadfast endurance*”

- * Here is the Steadfast Endurance of the Saints!

THE PROOF OF THEIR FAITHFULNESS

Revelation 14: 12

“Here is the *patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus*”

These people demonstrated their faithfulness to the Lord in two ways

1. They kept His commandments
2. They kept the faith.

When we do as He tells us in His Word, we establishes the fact that we love Him

John 14:15

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

[13] And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

[14] If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

[15] If ye love me, keep my commandments.

[16] And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

[17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you”

1 John 2: 3-5

“ [3] And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

[4] He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

[5] But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him”

Revelation 14: 12

“Here is the patience [“steadfast endurance”] of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”

1. They kept His commandments

Not only did they keep the commandments of God they kept their faith!

As they kept the faith, these people had refused to deny Jesus

Now get this - They had maintained their faith in Him even when doing so was costly.

* Many in the Tribulation will go to their deaths rather than deny the Lord Jesus.

* How much easier would it be for them to deny Him with their lips, even as they embrace Him in their hearts?

But, they are not hypocrites!

* They will not deny Him even though it will cost them everything.

* By refusing to worship Antichrist, they will suffer greatly.

* They will not be able to buy or sell.

* They will be hunted and hounded and executed for their allegiance to Jesus. Still, *they will remain faithful!*

Revelation 14: 12 teach us about the suffering saints set a sterling example for those of us living in these days!

* As we know, the trend in churches and among church people in our day is to become more like the world.

* That is the easy path to follow.

* It gains you favor with the world and it helps you grow in numbers.

1. Hey I still believe in Salvation only through the Blood of Jesus Christ – Repentance of our sins

2. I believe in Divine Healing

3. I believe in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost – the initial evidence is speaking in tongues

4. I believe in the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ

If you compromise the Word of God and water down the Gospel message, you forfeit the presence and power of God.

You might have a full house, huge crowds and mountains of cash, but if there is no power and touch of God, those things amount to less than nothing!

Now we have looked at The Proclamation Of Their Faithfulness and The Proof Of Their Faithfulness

Revelation 14:13 teach us about the Profit of their Faithfulness

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”

From a worldly point of view these people gave up a lot for their faith in Jesus Christ

- * They suffered, they starved, and they endured hardships that we cannot even begin to imagine.
- * Men watched their wives and children starve to death.
- * Mothers watched their children suffer.
- * What did it profit them? What payoff was there in such suffering and pain?

This verse tells us about their future - If you are saved it tells about your too!

We are told that these people who will die in and for Jesus are “blessed”

- * This word has the idea of being “*happy*”
- * It means to be “*supremely blessed; fortunate; well off*”

The idea here is that those who die in the Lord leave a harsh, unfriendly world for a better place.

We have often heard it said, when a believer dies, “*Well, they are better off.*” It is so true!

Paul knew this truth

Philippians 1:23 [message] “As long as I'm alive in this body, there is good work for me to do. If I had to choose right now, I hardly know which I'd choose. Hard choice! The desire to break camp here and be with Christ is powerful. Some days I can think of nothing better”

8.

Folks: Some call it Heaven – But I call it HOME!

2 Timothy 4:6-8

“You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting—God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming”

* **Glory – All that's left now is the shouting!**

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”

They Will Rest From Their Labors

* These people have labored for Jesus in a difficult day, now they are going home to rest.

The word “labour” does not refer to the act of working, but to the weariness that comes from working

“Labour” - This word literally means *“a beating; grief; sorrow; trouble”*

- * It can be used to speak of *“beating the breast out of sorrow”*
- * The idea here is of the soldier who has fought in the campaigns and battles and has grown weary.
- * He needs some R&R [Rest and Relaxation]

These saints gave their all for Jesus here on the earth and all they got in return was weariness of the flesh, grief and sorrow

* Now, they can go into the presence of the Lord to rest.

Revelation 14: 13b

“...Yea, saith the Spirit, that *they may rest from their labours*; and their works do follow them”

Revelation 21:1-6

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And *God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;* and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely”

Revelation 21: 10

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God”

Revelation 22: 5

“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever”

* Heaven my friends is a real place!

Revelation 14: 13b

“...Yea, saith the Spirit, that *they may rest from their labours;* and their works do follow them”

Note The word “*rest*” means “*to cease from labor to in order to recover and collect strength*”

* It speaks of being in a state of “*refreshment*”

* There is weariness in the work of God! God’s faithful servants get tired, but *there is coming a day of rest and refreshment!*

10.

Note

- * **It is easy to get weary in the service of the Lord!**
- * **Take preaching for instance.**
- * **It has been determined that one hour of preaching is equal in stress and physical demand to working at hard manual labor for half a day and it is equal to a full day of office work**
- * **Add to that sermon preparation, presentation, spiritual warfare, visitation and other necessary duties and you are talking about a recipe for weariness.**

MINISTERS STATISTICS

- 90%** of the Pastors report working between **55 to 75** hours per week.
- 75%** report significant **stress related** crisis at least once in their ministry.
- 70%** do not have someone they consider a close friend.
- 40%** report serious conflict with a parishioner at least **once a month**.
- 50%** have considered leaving the ministry in the last few **months**.
- 50%** of the ministers starting out will not last **5 years**.
- 1** out of **10** ministers will actually retire as a minister in some form.
- 66%** of church members expect a minister and family to live at a higher moral standard than themselves.
- Moral values of a Christian is **no different** than those who consider themselves as non-Christians
- The average American will tell **23** lies a day.
- The **profession of "Pastor"** is near the bottom of a survey of the most-respected professions, just above **"car salesman"**
- Over **4,000** churches closed in America last year.
- Over **1,700** Pastors left the ministry **every month** last year
- Over **1,300** Pastors were terminated by the local church **each month**, many without a cause
- Over **3,500** people **a day** left the church last year.
- Many denominations report an **"empty pulpit crisis."** They cannot find ministers willing to fill positions.

#1 reason Pastor leave the ministry—Church people are not willing to go the same direction and goal of the Pastor. Pastors believe God wants them to go in one direction but the people are not willing to follow or change.

Many of you are weary in the battle today

* It gets hard to live for Jesus in a world that does not care about Him! It is hard to be holy in a godless world. It makes you weary.

Let me encourage you, precious saint of God, there is coming a day of rest!

* One day, we will step out of this world and we will enter His presence
 * When we arrive there, we will have laid aside the burdens, cares and labor of this life. We will be able to find refreshment in His presence.

By the way, He knows how to refresh us here too! He can give you strength sufficient for your days

Revelation 14: 13b

“...Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them”

They Will Be Rewarded For Their Labors

* We are told that *“their works do follow them”*

Their Identity – The dead who are in the Lord receive a reward – rest from their earthly labors and their works do follow them – they also receive a heavenly work to do for Jesus Christ.

* **What will that work be?**

* **Well I guess we will have to wait till we get there to totally find out!**

“What A Day That Will Be” - it will be a glorious day when we leave this world to go to our reward!

Conclusion

*** The contrast in the destinations of the lost and the saved could not be more different!**

*** Those who reject Jesus Christ will spend eternity apart from His presence in Hell.**

*** Those who receive Him will enjoy an eternity spent in His presence in Heaven.**

My friends not even Five seconds, but in a twinkle of your eye after you die you will already be where you are going to spend eternity

*** Look at your heart right now**

*** Where would you go if you died within the hour?**

*** Would you go to Heaven?**

*** Would you go to Hell?**

*** Are you content with the place you are headed right now?**

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