

1. Hear angel's words to earth-dwellers: Rv 14:6-11. Now words to us: v12-13
2. As earth-dwellers are warned, church is called to persevere & die in the Lord.

**1st: An Encouragement from John - v12**

1. We are to learn from angel's warnings: persevere even while the gospel is being rejected, Babylon collapsing, & God's wrath intensifies. Choose your wrath: God's or Babylon's? Jn 12:42-43; Gal 6:12.
2. A 3<sup>rd</sup> *here is...* assertion: 13:18 & v9-10. We must persevere. Lk 8:15 fruitful soil; Rm 2:7 persevere = evidence - gives hope
3. Mat 24:12 perseverance in Rv 14:12 = *keep commandments of God* in a time of lawlessness & lovelessness. Faith, hope & love - life of discipleship.
4. *[who keep] their faith in Jesus* - lit "the faith of Jesus" - ambiguous: subjective believing in Jesus; *faithful* [Rv 2:13]; or doctrine that is believed - Christology; or replicating Jesus' faith [Rv 1:5; 3:14; Hb 12:2].

**2nd: A Blessing from Heaven - v13a**

1. We've heard this voice before: Rv 1:10-11, 19; 10:4; 11:12; 14:2 - ambiguous.
2. Rv 19:9 - an angel [v10]; voice *from heaven* => authority of God, cf. Rv 21:5
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7 beatitudes. 1<sup>st</sup> was 1:3. [16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14]. The nearer we get to the end of the age, the more John tells us that we're blessed.
4. Rv 14:13a Jn obeys & writes a beatitude: for us who face death.
  - i. Death for Christian is a *blessing*: climax of a life of progressive sanctif.
  - ii. Ps 116:15; 23:4; 48:14 - 1C 3:21-23
5. What is *blessing*? What God gives to sustain life. Death is a blessing b/c it advances our life in Christ. Rv 14:13 motivates us to *die in the Lord* - Rv 2:10
6. *from now on*: NCov era Rm 14:7-9; live *from now on* for Christ Phil 3:13-14

**3rd: An Endorsement & Explanation from the Spirit - v13b**

1. *Yes, says the Spirit* - confirming testimony [Dt 19:15].
2. Rv's letters = *what Spirit says*. *Spirit & the bride say, "Come."* [Rv 22:17a].
3. Communication from heaven is complex: mystery. Voice of heaven, now HS
4. Christian's blessedness in death - *rest*. Opposite of v11
  - i. Death = sleep - Isa 57:1-2. Awaken - Ps 17:14-15; Isa 26:18; Dan 12:2-3
  - ii. Laz is *asleep* [Jn 11:11]; Xn's death [A 13:36; Rm 13:11; 1C 11:30; 15:18-20,51; 1Th 4:13-15] - Eph 5:14.
5. v11, *no rest*. v13, *rest from their labors* - overcame difficulty: persevered in Babylon, opposed by 2 Beasts of Dragon - Rv 6:11
6. A relationship between *their deeds* & their *rest* - *deeds follow w/ them*. Rv 2:23b; 22:12 [2C 5:10] *Follow* - come along from behind: 1T 5:24-25

**Applic #1: Salvation is More Than Just Justification**

1. A true Christian produces harvestable fruit: good deeds - sanctification.
2. Hb 12:14 - live for Christ *from now on* & die a blessed death in Christ.

**Applic #2: All Men Will Be Judged on the Basis of How They Have Lived**

1. FJ in Rv 20:12-13; Rv 22:12. 1C15:58
2. May you live for Christ & die in Christ. Be blessed.