

66-14-01 --The Witness of Our Work  
 memorial service, deeds, testimony, death, work  
 Rev 14:13

"*Watch your work!*" is a departing loved one's last message to us.

**Revelation 14:13** (NKJV), Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

### **INTRODUCTION:**

--My mother's proverb: "*When the winds of death blow, two or three leaves fall.*" Have you found it so? I have.... And Scripture says, "*In the mouth of two or three witnesses, let every word be established.*" God is intent on getting our full attention on mortality and its meaning. He does so often by the tumbling of 2 or 3 leaves close together.

--*Even if you've not attended many memorials, God wants to speak to you by this one...* A loved one's death has a message for those remaining: **text & title.** The *witness* of another life's work is now completed, but a last word remains: **HOM.idea.**

### **I. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" Death Can Be Blessed...**

- A. When you "*die in the Lord*"... (b/o resurrection hope in Christ)
- B. What "*in the Lord*" means-- [acceptable fruit-bearing often comes when a weaker sprigs are grafted into a stronger tree trunk; Jesus referred to Himself as the Vine into Whom we must be grafted to produce a good harvest of fruitful works]

**TRANS:** We're often mistaken about who will go first [Naomi & Tom Dunlap: Mom & Dad]. God often uses the death of one loved one to get another one ready to go [Edith & John Clark]. **HOM.idea!**

### **II. "that they may rest from their labors..." Death Is a Rest...**

- A. "*Rest*" implies that *work was accomplished*, energy expended.
- B. "*Rest*" implies that the *job is done*. [retirement is a statement: "I'm not working here anymore; you'll have to pick up where I left off."]
- C. "*Rest*" implies a *place* to do it. [retirees don't get much rest on earth: they're too busy!] "*RIP*" means *real rest* after earth's labors cease.
- D. "*Rest*" implies a *renewal of work* ["his servants will serve Him."]

**TRANS:** On the Cross, Jesus said "*It is finished.*" It meant that our passage to Heaven was purchased. His work left a path for us to follow. It's what we do with His saving work that shapes the story of our own works that will follow us, when *we* leave.

### **III. "their works follow them." Death Leaves a Trail of Works...**

- A. We can't help but leave a trail [Abbot Moses and his bag of sand: "Woe is me! I go to judge my brother, and my own sins trail after me!"]
- B. We benefit from moments of remembrance, *only if* we take to heart the message a memorial service offers: "*Watch your work!*" (because the **witness of our work** will perhaps be the subject of a similar time of remembrance, when we depart.).

**CONCLUSION:** *The Everlasting Memorial* by Horatius Bonar (edited)

Up and away, like the dew of the morning,  
 Soaring from earth to its home in the sun.  
 So let me steal away, gently and lovingly,  
 Only remembered by what I have done.

Yes, like the fragrance that wanders in freshness,  
 When the flowers it came from are closed up and gone, --  
 So would I be to this world's weary dwellers,  
 Only remembered by what I have done.

Needs there be praise of the love-written record,  
 The name and the epitaph graved on the stone?  
 Things we have lived for, -- let them be our story,  
 Ourselves but remembered by what we have done.

I need not be missed, if another succeed me,  
 To reap down those fields which in spring I have sown;  
 Who plowed and who sowed is not missed by the reaper.  
 He's only remembered by what he has done.

So let my living be, so be my dying;  
 So let my name lie, unblazoned, unknown;  
 Unpraised and unmissed, I shall still be remembered;  
 Yes, always remembered by what I have done.