

The Blessed Dead
Re.14:13

Intro. It is wonderful to be able to say of our beloved who have departed that they are blessed.

1. There is much about death that is sad. It severs precious earthly ties, thwarts many hopes, the darkness sometimes seems cold and cheerless and lonely.

2. The wonderful thing about Christianity is that it enables us to see death as a blessed state.

I. This Blessedness.

A. Never alone (Ps.23:4, Mt.28:20, He.13:5-6, Ph.1:23, II Co.5:6-8, Re.22:4)

B. Man is more than a flesh and blood body (Ge.2:7) Each of us may say "I am a living soul." We are much too concerned with the physical body (Ill. J.D. Cox p. 41)

C. Still truly alive. Death of the physical body does not mean the end of life. We live on without the body. (Ec.12:7, II Co.5:6-8, Ill. # 2, p. 42)

D. Death is the gateway to peace.

II. The Condition Of This Blessedness.

A. A man is not blessed just because he dies. Only if he dies "in the Lord."

B. Two things are necessary to receiving this blessing:

1. Must enter into the Lord (II Co.5:17, Ga.3:26-27, Ro.6:3, Ac.4:12)

2. Must live faithful to him till death. (Mt.24:13, Ro.2:10). His faith grew deeper and richer toward the end.

III. What Blessedness Is This.

A. "Rest from their labors." Work in the Master's vineyard; from sorrow and suffering.

1. Sorrows and suffering are the lot of this life (Jn.16:33). Temptations (Ga.5:17) *Mr. 26:41*

2. But there is glory and rest to follow (I Pe.4:1, 12, 13, 19, II Co.4:16-18) (Ro.8:18)

3. Rest for aching muscles, rest from pains torment, rest in the bosom of Abraham.

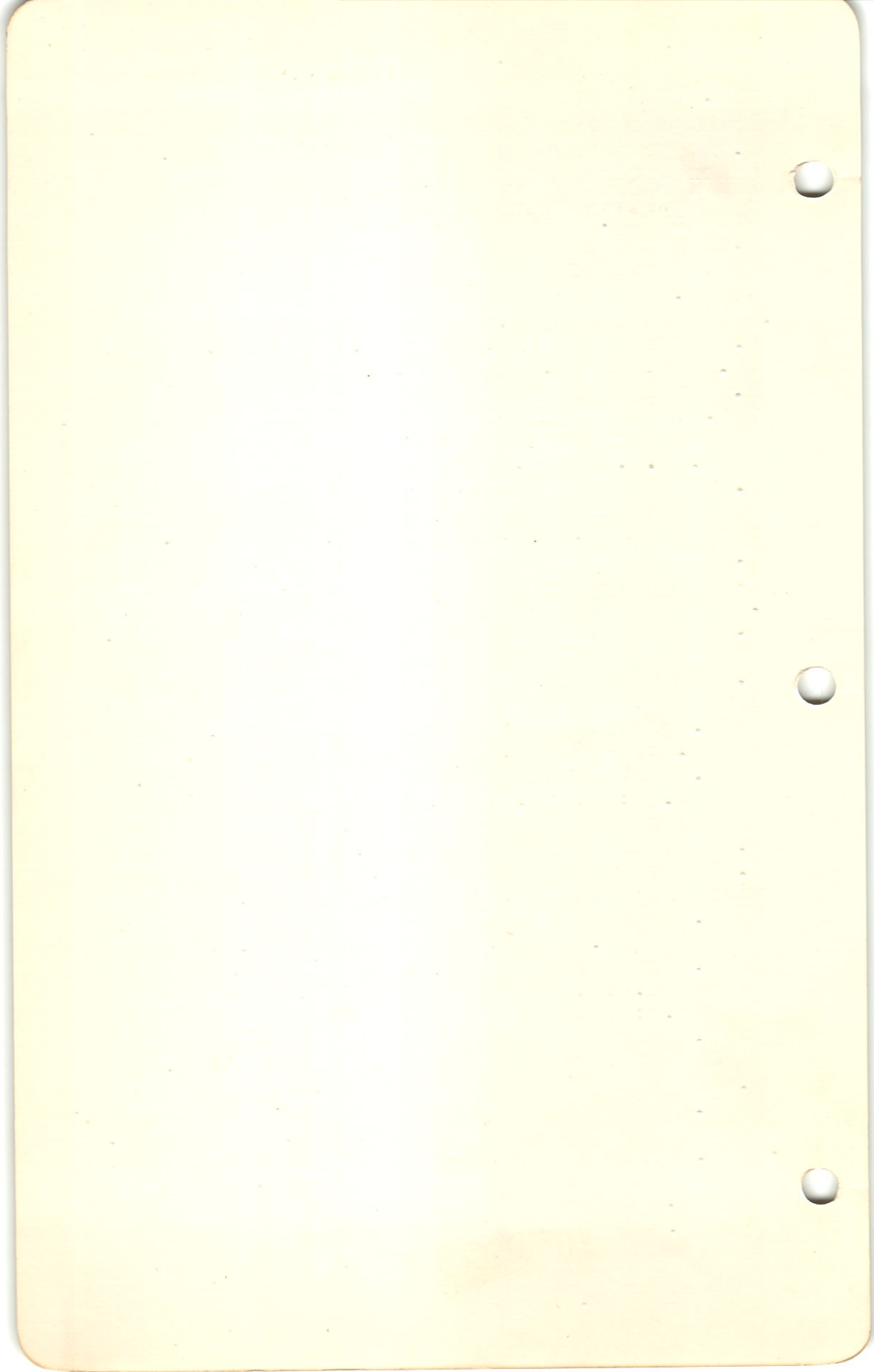
B. "Their works do follow them."

1. He was not sinless - no one is - Consider the song he chose (#447). (Is.57:15, I Jn.1;8-9)

2. Works follow. (The poor elderly couple, a discouraged preacher, pat etc.)

a. Concern for family.

b. Advice to his son "put up your life for your religion." "The people will try to get you to do wrong - but don't you listen to them."



- c. "I thought when your money played out
you would have no friends." (~~The little doll~~
~~"I'll be your friend for a price"~~)
d. He said he'd learned these things are
so false. (Pr.17:17, Pr.18:24) "Jesus is
my friend. I talk to him just like I'm
talking to you." Song 529
e. "We'll shake hands in glory."

*"We'll catch the broken thread again
And finish what we have begun"*

Frank Trily Funeral
Robs. 6/19/64