

who are united by faith to Christ, are members of His spiritual body, are pervaded by His Spirit, are made partakers of His life: these when they depart from this world are pronounced emphatically "Blessed." In connection with the blessedness their works are not so much as named. It is dying in Christ,—though surrounded by infirmities and temptations, though constantly struggling with corruptions, though cast down and almost overwhelmed, though sorely tried and afflicted, yet still, amidst all, looking to Jesus, trusting to Jesus, drawing strength from Him,—it is this which secures to us our blessedness; this interest in Christ, this union with him,—this support which makes us more than conquerors, and enables us to claim the promise, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son:" our works are not forgotten, our works do follow us, and through the goodness of God, are met by a glorious reward; but the writing is, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

Now, simply by examining the assertion in one general view, we must pronounce those who die in the Lord as indeed "Blessed." They stand in the presence of their Lord, and serve Him in glory! This in itself is enough