

How blest the righteous are  
Balaam's Wish  
John Newton, 1779,  
from Olney Hymns, vol. 1, hymn 20

How blest the righteous are  
When they resign their breath!  
No wonder Balaam wished to share  
In such a happy death.

2. Oh! let me die, said he,  
The death the righteous do;  
When life is ended let me be  
Found with the faithful few.

3. The force of truth how great!  
When enemies confess,  
None but the righteous whom they hate,  
A solid hope possess.

4. But Balaam's wish was vain,  
His heart was insincere;  
He thirsted for unrighteous gain,  
And sought a portion here.

5. He seemed the Lord to know,  
And to offend him loth;  
But Mammon proved his overthrow,  
For none can serve them both.

6. May you, my friends, and I,  
Warning from hence receive;  
If like the righteous we would die,  
To choose the life they live.