**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 2, 2020**

Good afternoon!

While visiting a large church in Texas some years ago, as I was passing the church nursery, finding my way to a seat before worship, I noticed an engraved sign above the nursery door. It quoted I Corinthians 15:51, “we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” It made me chuckle as I bet it did you too! However, truth be told for believers, there will come a day that we will all experience an exchange! In the twinkling of an eye, we will exchange that which is perishable with that which is imperishable, that which is mortal with immortality! That’s when we will transfer our membership as Christians from earth to glory, where our real citizenship is! Take a minute and listen to how the apostle Paul describes it!

I Cor. 15:50-55

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55 “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

I love verse 55 where it says “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” Have you ever been stung by a bee? One time while I was driving along in my car a bee flew in the window. In somewhat of a panic I was trying to encourage it to fly back out. Instead, it landed on my right leg. I happen to have an open church directory on the front seat of my car within reaching distance as I had been out visiting some folks at the time. In an instant, I grabbed the book and slammed it down on the bee that was still sitting on my leg. I crushed the insect right between the names Crane and the Cook in the directory! I thought the sting of death cannot prevail against the church! Amen? In like manner as the sting of death is sin... we have victory over it in Christ Jesus our Lord! Jesus has crushed the life out of sin’s effect on the saved!

Hope you have a super day!

Mike