**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 7, 2020**

Good afternoon!

One of my favorite songs is a song named “Heaven Is A Wonderful Place.” As Christians, heaven is where our true citizenship is! It’s our real home! Listen to some of these verses that speak of our true home.

• “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:13-16

• “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

• “However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20

• “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” I Thessalonians 4:16-17

• “For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.” I Corinthians 5:1

• “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?” John 14:2

As we all know, there is no place like home! Home sometimes is what you are comfortable with and where you grew up. Whether it is a city or the country or even a country abroad, for the most part, home is what you have been used to in life! On our first return trip to NY, where my family and I all grew up, after living in Ohio for a number of years, something very interesting took place. As we were driving through the Bronx, my daughter Brooke started to feel at home. As we traveled on the Cross Bronx Expressway, we came into heavy traffic. Then there were the potholes and the graffitied bridges and walls along the highway. And you couldn’t miss the smog that was in the air from the factories around us. It was at that point that she took a deep breath and said, “There is no place like home!” Yes, home for most is what you grew up with and are used to for sure! But for Christians, home has nothing to do with where you grew up or where you are now living or even where you may want to retire someday! This world is not our home we are just passing through! Let’s keep our eye on our heavenly home! Amen?

Have a great day,

Mike