**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 20, 2020**

Good afternoon!

After it rains when the sun comes back out there are times when we notice a rainbow in the sky! It is a beautiful thing to behold! It is even a more beautiful thing to remember where we first read about rainbows in the sky and what it was meant to be a reminder of! The first time we read about a rainbow in the sky is in Genesis chapter 9. This took place right after the great flood on the earth. After a storm like that, it must have been a brilliant sight! Listen to what God says and what He connects to the rainbow in the sky.

• “And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between Me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” Genesis 9:12-19

Later in time, God made another covenant with mankind concerning His right relationship with Him.

• “Behold days are coming when I will effect a new covenant... For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” Hebrews 8:8,12

When God put the rainbow in the sky it was a reminder of the covenant that we have with Him. Because of His covenant, we can stand before Him as righteous. When He sees us, He sees one of His covenant children.

When Jesus first saw Nathanael in John 1:48 He said, “when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Jesus sees what is in us, that only He can see. I Samuel 16:7 says, “man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Jesus looked at Nathanael in John 1:47 and said “Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile.”

When Margie and I moved to Lubbock Texas for me to attend the Sunset School Of Preaching years ago it was like moving to the desert. After being there for only about a month, she had to have her gallbladder removed. All was well after that! The director of SSOP at the time was Cline Paden. He was a wonderful godly man and a great school director. He did have a side of him that would like to play jokes on folks from time to time. One Wednesday evening as Margie and I were passing him by in the hall at church he stopped us in the middle of the crowded walkway, held up his hand and said I have an announcement to make. He announced, in this woman there is no gall! We all laughed! However, truth be told, in her there was no guile either! Because of the covenant we have with God we can all stand before Him blameless due to the covenant of forgiveness we have with a wonderful God who will always keep His promises!

We sing a song from time to time called “Standing On The Promises Of God.” Let’s be reminded of that every time we see a rainbow!

Blessings,

Mike