

Friday, February 20, 2015 - Oh Death Where is Thy Sting?

We are blessed with God's revelation assuring us that there is indeed life after death. When the inspired apostle Paul was comforting Christians who were concerned about their loved ones who had died "in Christ," or, as Paul said, "those who sleep in Jesus," (1 Thes. 4:14) he declared, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again..." (1 Thes. 4:14). The confidence we have in our own resurrection from the dead is grounded in our faith that Jesus is the Christ who "died for our sins...was buried...and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

This morning we mourn for the loss of a dear friend's father who passed away last night after a long illness. The loss of his physical being will be long felt by his family because of the tremendous presence he had in their lives. But his walk with God, while here, leaves a lasting legacy that will influence souls for the remainder of time. Take comfort that you will be reunited before the throne of God for all eternity.

Please say a prayer for this family.

In Christ, Chuck

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 - I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 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. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 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."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

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

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.