

## THE STING OF DEATH

Bible Reading: I Corinthians 15:50-58

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? I Corinthians 15:55.

One of the mysteries that the unassisted human mind cannot explain is the mystery of death. Until we experience the death of a loved one, we have no conception of what such an occurrence means. Until a person has had the experience of seeing one who is dear to him disappear from life and the body become merely a corpse, he cannot even imagine the shock that such an event brings.

The sting of death is a frightful thing. It is very real in this life. We cannot escape from it by putting our heads into the sand and denying it or saying that it does not exist. For the man who is out of Christ death has a sting that can never be completely overcome. The victory of the grave swallows up all his thoughts, aspirations, and desires, and puts an end to everything that he has attempted.

For the Christian, however, the statement here expressed by the apostle is indeed a reality. For him, death need have no sting. His loved ones who have died in the Lord have merely gone on to be with Christ, which is far better. The grave has no victory over us as believers for we go to be with the One who is victorious over death and Satan. The power of God is yea and amen. His purposes are certain to be accomplished in the end.

As far as the non-Christian is concerned, the grave is indeed the end of all his hopes. But the Christian has victory over the grave, through Jesus Christ our Lord.