**Black Preacher Sermon**

He Has Risen



(1 Corinthians 15:20-26 KJV)

*20But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.21For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.22For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.23But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.24Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.25For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

(1 Corinthians 15:55 KJV)

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

O

ne day, a mother and her two children were in the park having a wonderful time. They were enjoying the outdoors until a big bumblebee landed on little Brother and then stung him! He began to cry and scream like any child would as the wound on his arm became swollen. The bee was still buzzing around, and his little sister was petrified. The mother comforted her daughter by saying, "Darling, wait a minute." As she was wiping Brother's tears away, she said, "Look down here on your brother's arm." Right in the middle of that swelling was the bumblebee's stinger. "You see that, Sweetheart? That bee can buzz and fight you, but he can't hurt you. You see, he can only sting once and he has left his stinger in your brother."

While death is a decided fact, Death is also a defeated foe. We are able to laugh in the face of Death if we know the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to tell you, friend, Death may buzz around you and frighten you, but our elder brother, the Lord Jesus, bears that sting. Jesus took the sting out of Death, and He has given us a hope that is steadfast and sure.

Before the Genesis Flood, death had to be patient because men lived such long lives. Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived, ended up living 969 years. That’s a lot of birthday candles. Since the Flood, however, man’s life span has been severely shortened. Rarely, do people live to be over 100 today. Most die in their 70’s or 80’s if they live a long life.

Moses said in Psalm 90:10, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

Death’s grip may be delayed, but not conquered. Men face an appointment with it that will be kept when it is their time. Are you ready for your appointment? Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Jesus told Death that he couldn't keep Him. You see — Jesus willingly and vicariously laid down His life. The wages of sin is death, but Jesus was not a sinner and did not have to die. Jesus willingly, voluntarily, vicariously laid down His life.