

O Death, Where is Your Sting?

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 1

Corinthians 15:55

Have you ever been stung by a bee? It's not a fun experience. But although it's painful for the person being stung, it's fatal for the bee. When a honeybee stings a person, it can't pull its little barbed stinger back out. This is a one-time experience for them. They had better think carefully about who they are going to sting, because once they do it, they are not going to survive.

When a bee stings you, not only is the bee's stinger left in you but also part of its abdomen and digestive tract, as well as nerves and muscles. This massive abdominal rupture kills the bee shortly after it stings. That is what happened when Jesus died on the cross. In his enduring hatred for God's Son, Satan thought it would be a great idea to have Jesus betrayed, arrested, beaten within an inch of His life, and then crucified and put to death on a Roman cross. The devil said, "This is my moment. I am going to sting Him. I will have a role in His death. When He dies, that is the end of Him." Everything went according to Sa-tan's plan, and like a bee, he flew off thinking he had succeeded.

But everything went according to God's plan as well, and the sting of death was its own defeat. As 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 says, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Where is the sting of death for the Christian? It is ripped out, because at the cross, Jesus took the stinger out of death. This is a great truth. As Christians, we no longer need to fear death because our souls will live on forever with Christ.

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