

October 2020

From the Pastor



## Saying Goodbye

My wife and I were saddened a bit this week as we had to say goodbye to some visitors. We had them at our house since about May. We took down the hummingbird feeder. It was a joy to have breakfast and look out our window and see hummingbirds drink from the feeder. We didn't have many. We think we only had two that Mindy thought were a male and a female. Later in the summer we saw another one, which we think was one of their children, because it looked a little smaller.

It was so good to see them as we had our meals with them. Now we only have an empty crook where the bird feeder was hanging. However, we know next year when we put out the bird feeder in May there will come a time when we will see the hummingbirds again.

The same is true for many Christian friends I knew. I enjoyed life with them while we did many things together. Some of them helped me grow as a Christian. I have laughed and cried with them, but one day they left. All that is left are memories that are somewhat lacking, because they are gone. I know there will be a day I will see them again.

The apostle Paul tells us:

*<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*



*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?"*

*<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:51-57 ESV)*

As Paul writes, we may not die, but we will all be changed. That will be at the time when Jesus returns. Paul says this, because there is the possibility that some of us won't die before Jesus returns.

For those of us who have had Christians friends, we will see them again in glory, because death has been overcome by Jesus! It is a wonderful thing to know death is not the last time we will see our friends.

I look forward to walking into heaven and seeing friends like Harry and Fran Parker who took me in as my second parents and Orville Rolfe, a mentor and close friend. I think there will be surprises too, friends and family who I did not know had become believers. I will see them again.

I look forward to seeing those friends again just like I look forward to seeing the hummingbirds again next spring. I am certain of this because my God has conquered death.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.