

## Do I Believe Jesus Offers Me Life?

A mountain school had a hard time keeping a teacher. It seems there was a group of big, rough boys who took pride in running the teacher off. The biggest and roughest of them all was named Tom. A new young teacher won over the boys by letting them write the rules for the school - which were very strictly enforced with a rod. For example, cheating would be punished with five strokes of the rod, and stealing with ten strokes, both to be given with the offender's coat off. Everything went well until one day Tom's lunch was stolen. A frail little boy in hand-me-down clothes that were too big for him admitted his guilt. The school rules demanded that he be whipped. When the teacher called the little fellow up front he came whimpering and begging to leave his coat on. The pupils insisted he obey the rules and take off his coat. When he did a deathly silence settled over the room, for he had no shirt and his body looked like skin stretched over bones. The teacher gasped and dropped the rod. He knew he could never whip that little boy. Suddenly, big Tom stood between the two. "I'll take it for him, Teacher, for after all it was my lunch he stole." He shrugged out of his coat. At the third blow the switch broke, and the teacher threw it in the corner and said, "That's all, school dismissed." The frail little boy laid his hand on big Tom's arm and through his tears said, "Thank you, Tom, it would have killed me."

Because of God's compassion for you and me, Jesus paid the price for our sins, and the future is not so bleak. In fact, it looks great when you are sure of where you will be spending eternity.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

1 Corinthians 15:54-57, "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."

You need to answer a question right now? It is the most important question you will ever ask. "Do I believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do I believe that those who believe in Him will never die?"

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