

*Another hour and it would  
have been too late ...*



# DEADLY BITES

One summer day two men and their wives went fishing on a lake. They had some of the finest equipment and were looking forward to a good catch, but after several hours without a bite they decided to return home. However, they were amazed to see a small boy on the shore pulling in fish after fish.

One of the women walked over to the boy, curious as to how he was catching all those fish. He was happy to share his success. Pointing to a rotten log, he explained, "There are lots of worms under that log. They make good bait, although they bite your hand when you put them on the hook. Help yourself; there are plenty of them."

## **SURPRISE**

Lifting up the log, the woman saw, to her surprise, not worms, but a nest of poisonous baby copperhead snakes. "Those aren't worms – they're copperheads!" she called to the boy. "Let me look at your hands."

The boy's hands were covered with tiny bites already beginning to swell from the poison. They rushed him to the doctor, who injected some anti-venom serum, and the boy's life was saved. The doctor estimated that the poison from all those little bites actually

equalled the bite of a full-grown copperhead. Another hour and it would have been too late!

That little boy was innocently handling snakes, not realizing they were poisonous ... and they were actually destroying him! He thought he was using them to his advantage, but in the end they would have killed him.

Many people today are innocently living their own lives, not hurting anyone else – yet completely unaware that **sin** in their lives is destroying them. You may not consider yourself a sinner (many people don't), but God says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Everything that does not please God is sin. Does this define any of your actions? Many of the things you think you do for your own advantage, are really sins, and the bite of these sins leads to eternal death. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

## **HOPE**

Is there no hope? Just as there was hope for the boy because of quick action, so there is hope for you if you act in faith. The boy's life was saved because he was taken to the right source for help – the doctor. So it is with you:

there is *only one source* of help concerning sin – **God** Himself.

God has determined that sin must be punished, but He has also provided a Substitute who *already* suffered and died for your sins. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). “Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

You are in trouble and need help! God offers you the help you desperately need: “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). You can choose either to accept God’s salvation in Jesus Christ, or reject it.

“He who believes in the Son (of God) has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

The choice is yours; you must decide. Come to Christ now for the only remedy!

– *C. Darling*

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