

Cause of Death? Snakebite

by Jefferson David Want

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When we stress the fact that obedience is absolutely necessary to salvation someone comes along and asks, “Do you mean to say that you believe a man will die and go to hell because he hasn’t been baptized?” To which I reply with a kind, but firm, “No.” A man dies and is lost because of sin. Sin is what killed him spiritually (Romans 6:23), just as Silas Barnsworthy was killed by the snake’s poison.

The Bible says that God is not willing for any to perish (2 Peter 3:9), and because of this He sent His Son into the world to redeem the world through the shedding of blood. Christ gave us a “bottle of medicine,” but if we refuse to follow its directions we will die and be lost in spite of all that God has done to save us. He will not hold us down and “pour the medicine” into us. We are free agents having the choice to obey or disobey.

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