

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Good morning to you! In Chapter 7 (pages 91-93) of *Your Quest for God*, written by my husband, Richard Bennett, under the theme of *Does God Really Love Me*, there is a true story I want to share with you this morning.

It was during the Boer War, and there was a bugle-boy called Willie Holt, who was twelve years old, when he was assigned to a tent with seven godless soldiers. One of these men was called Bill. However, unlike Bill, Willie was a devout believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Each night, he knelt by his bed to silently pray and read his Bible. As he did so, the other soldiers mocked and cursed.

One day the Colonel-in-Charge called the Company on parade. A thief had been traced to the tent where Willie and Bill had been assigned. In a desperate attempt to trace the criminal, the Colonel issued his ultimatum to the whole Company: "My previous warnings have been to no avail," he said. "Last night, the thief was at it again Today, I will give the culprit one last opportunity to identify himself and take his punishment like a man. If he does not respond, every man in the Company will be punished with ten lashes of the whip upon his bare back. But if one of you comes forward to

take the punishment, the rest will be spared."

After a tense silence, Willie stood to attention, stepped forward and said, "Sir, you just stated that, 'if one man comes forward to take the punishment, the rest will be spared.' Sir, I will be that man." With anger, the Colonel cried out against the unknown coward: "How can you let an innocent lad take your punishment?" No one moved. "Then," said the Colonel, "you will all watch the wretched sight of an innocent boy taking the punishment of a guilty man!"

True to his word, the Colonel ordered Willie's back to be bared, and then the cruel lashes of the whip commenced. As Willie fainted beneath the bitter blows, suddenly Bill, unable to bear the spectacle any longer, rushed from the ranks and shouted, "Stop! I am the thief! I will take my own punishment. "Coming around from his swoon, Willie tenderly lifted his eyes to Bill and whispered: "It's all right, Bill, the Colonel can't go back on his word now. I will take all of your punishment.' And he did!

Young Willie never did recover from the effects of his lashing. But before Willie went to Heaven, Bill, now a broken man, wept at his bed-side and asked: "Why, Willie? Why did you do it for me? I'm not worth it." Willie's answer was simple and telling: "Bill," he said. " I have often tried to tell you how much God loves you but you always laughed; I thought if I took your punishment, it might help you to understand how much Jesus

loved you when He went to the Cross to take your place and to die for your sin." Before Willie went to Heaven, Bill accepted the salvation so freely offered by our loving Christ.

There is a verse in **2 Corinthians 2:14**, which says - **Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place.**

One life, available to the Lord, made an impact upon a man, who was condemned to a lost eternity. One life, who understood the principle of what Christ did for them on the Cross. Do you understand this: to know more of what it means to really be in Christ, to really understand the difference the life can mean when you receive Jesus as your only sacrifice?

Would you like to write for that book today? It is called *Your Quest for God*. It was written by my husband, Richard Bennett, many years back now. We want you to have a copy and to be blessed to really know that Christ is your Lord and Saviour and has changed your life.

God bless.