

If dad had waited until December 15th, to get things right with God, he would not be in heaven today.



Our dad had prepared for the hunt: he had targeted in his rifle, had worn warm hunting clothes, and he also had on a fluorescent orange vest. We don't get to choose when we die – fortunately dad had prepared for eternity – he had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – do you?

If you would like to have a personal relationship with Christ, you can right now! Why not trust Christ just now and believe that He died for you, rose again from the grave, and wants to have a personal relationship with you. Invite him into your life right now by saying a prayer something like this:

"Dear Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. Thank you for dying on the cross for me, for being buried and rising again. Please forgive me of my sins, come into my life and heart and save me. I want you to be the Lord of my life. Help me to live for you. Thank you for saving me. I pray this prayer in Jesus' holy and precious name – Amen."

Friend, if you said that prayer and meant it, we'd like to welcome you into the family of God! Acts 2:21 promises that "... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord **shall be saved**." You are now a child of God's and will spend eternity in heaven!

Today, if you received Christ as your Lord and Savior, would you please let us know? We would love to hear from you! Our prayer is that God will bless and keep you, that just maybe you'll get that 'wall hanger' this hunting season, but most importantly that we'll see you in heaven one day because of the decision that you made to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life.

Our story is featured in the Dec 11-Jan 12 Special Issue of Field and Stream magazine and provides a detailed account of what happened that December morning. If you are interested in reading the article, knowing more about the Witt Brothers' Ministry, or would like to contact us, please check out our web site at:

www.followingourfather.com.



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MISTAKEN IDENTITY



If you were to die today, do you KNOW where you would spend eternity?

By Mark and Dan Witt

The hunter took careful aim – it was the last day of buck season and the decisive moment had finally come, or so he thought. The previous weeks of heavy snow had kept most hunters out of the woods. Now with a slight break in the weather, many headed out the last day of the hunting season in hopes of shooting the big one.

One fortunate hunter had spotted what he thought was a ‘wall hanger.’ Ever so slowly he took aim at the trophy... little did he know that as he pulled the trigger, many lives would be forever impacted. As the hunter pulled the trigger and the sound of the shot broke the silence of that still Pennsylvania morning, heaven welcomed home a hero of the faith!

The next week the headlines of the local paper read, “High School Teacher Victim – Fatally Injured by Bullet.” The article went on to state that “a pale of gloom settled over the community last Saturday afternoon when the news came that Walter Witt, a prominent area resident and respected high school teacher, had met a tragic death in a hunting accident.” No one could have ever imagined that December 14, 1974, would be his last day alive on this earth.

Our dad, Walter DeSales Witt, known to many as ‘Walt,’ ‘Mr. Witt,’ or ‘Coach Witt’ was only 38 years old at the time of his death. He left behind a wife, two daughters, and two sons– we were hunting with him the Saturday morning when he was killed.



Dad was a science teacher, track coach, Sunday school teacher, deacon, lay minister - but the two titles he loved most were ‘dad’ and ‘soul-winner.’ His love for teaching, coaching, hunting, and fishing was exceeded only by his love for a few things – his love for his family and his love of telling others about his best friend – Jesus Christ. Whether it was on the track field, in the woods, at a fishing stream, or in the back yard playing ball with us, dad freely talked about his love for Jesus.

As he sat next to a stump waiting for the trophy buck that cold Saturday morning, he was preparing a sermon entitled ‘Will You Be There?’ that he was planning on preaching the next day - he never got to preach that sermon. His message was from Revelation 21:21, “...and the street of the city was pure gold...” In one careless moment by an anxious hunter, our dad stepped into eternity and saw streets of gold first!

At early ages, we had the joy of being with dad when he hunted rabbits, squirrel, grouse, turkeys, pheasants and deer. At the age of 12, this would be my (Mark’s) first and only deer hunt with dad. As much as dad loved the out-of-doors, he was always aware of the fact that if he taught us only about hunting and fishing, but not about the love Jesus Christ has for each and every person, he would have considered himself a failure.

The funeral service was held just a few days before Christmas. As family members and hundreds of students and friends passed the open casket, there was a sadness in knowing that he was gone, but there was also a joy and peace in knowing that dad was in heaven and that we would

see him one day soon. Dad wasn’t in heaven because he went to church, because he was good, because he was baptized, or even because he was a great father and husband. He was in heaven for one reason and one reason alone - he had put his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dad wasn’t religious – he had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. John 14:6 clearly tells us there is only **ONE WAY** to God, one way to get to heaven - Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.”

As you step into the woods this hunting season, may we ask you the most important questions you will ever be asked? “If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? Are you prepared to meet your creator?”

Your answer to these questions will determine your eternal destiny. You can **know** where you will spend eternity. We love what the Bible states in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have **everlasting** life.” Do you realize that Jesus loves you so much, that if you were the only person in the whole world, he would have died just for you? What is preventing you from giving your life to Jesus right now? The Bible tells us in II Corinthians 6:2, “...**now** is the acceptable time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.”

