

"LifeSaver"

A lot of people enjoy boating, fishing, sailing. Have you ever gone out in a boat? What kind of boat? Did you fish? Tell the fish story with Rick.

Do you know what this is? That's right, it's a lifesaver. It's pretty good candy and it also reminds us of something else.

Scripture: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life.

A lifejacket. These are used for the same reason. They keep us safe in the water and if you are drowning they can actually save your life. You know that it is very important to put on a life jacket any time you go out in a boat. You never know when an accident might happen or when a storm might come up. If you are thrown from the boat, a life jacket can save your life.

You don't have to do any research to prove the point. Just compare the crowd at church with the crowds that attend baseball or hockey games. Apparently there is no excitement at church that compares with sports, especially in the Play-offs.

Why this lack of excitement?

One person told me, 'I find myself giving my energy for church, but I don't get anything in return.' This is not a new problem. By nature we humans define our religion by what we expect ourselves and others to do. And 'doing' becomes wearisome. Boring – at times, boring indeed.

We think we need to help Jesus out because people are less interested in being a part of what He is doing in the world.

We think we need to be the lifesaver. We think we need to be the savior instead of allowing Jesus to do his job in our lives.

God's work of transforming lives is still supposed to be happening!

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

"LOOK TO JESUS AND LIVE!" Like the life jacket in the boat