

## Introduction

Justice. Do you believe in it? What is your perception of it?

Some believe that justice is served when criminals are being punished under the law. Others believe that there is justice only when the punishment is equivalent to the crime committed - an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth.

Then there are those who do not believe in justice. Perhaps, they have lost their faith in the judicial system due to some unfair treatment received in time past.

Still, there are others who break the law in the name of upholding justice. Most of us are familiar with Robin Hood. This famous character on TV robs and steals, but he is commonly depicted as "good" because he distributed the loot to the poor and needy. Is that real justice?

In a world where everyone has their own brand of justice, where can real justice be found?

## Is There A Standard?

Justice always requires a standard. But by whose standards? In Singapore, we have to abide by many statutory laws, including the Penal Code of Singapore. Who gave them to us? Historically, Singaporean laws were derived and adapted from British laws, while British laws can trace its roots to the Holy Bible, especially the Ten Commandments.

With commandments like *"thou shalt not kill"* and *"thou shalt not steal"*, there is little wonder why murder and theft are punishable crimes under our law.

For most crimes to be established there must be both the element of a criminal act and proven intention. Only when a person is proven to have both *Mens Reas* and

*Actus Reus* (i.e. guilty mind and guilty act) will he be deemed guilty. That is the state's standard.

But according to the Bible, which is God's standard, a person would have sinned, if he only has *Mens Reas* (guilty mind). Therefore when we hate someone in our heart and lust after a woman in our thoughts, we have killed (Matthew 5:22) and committed adultery (Matthew 5:28).

All of us have broken God's standard for we *"have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

The first half of Romans 6:23 reads, *"For the wages of sin is death..."* We deserve the death sentence. There is no appeal because God is already the Highest Authority. Although God is a loving God, He is also a righteous God.

James 2:10 says, *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one*

*point, he is guilty of all."* Even if we have broken only one commandment, we have broken all. By our sins, we have incurred the wrath of the Almighty God.

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). We cannot hide from this Divine Judge. Sin must be punished and the punishment is death. This death does not refer to only physical death but also eternal death. Thus the unrepentant sinner will have to spend eternity in the lake of fire, separated from God.

## Is There A Solution?

Although we are guilty but God provided a solution as He was *"not willing that any should perish . . ."* (2 Peter 3:9b). The second half of Romans 6:23 reads, *"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* As we can never save ourselves, God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

John 3:16-17 informs us, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

Jesus Christ is the ONLY solution as *" . . . Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day . . ."* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Only through Him can God pardon us and give us the gift of eternal life for He took our punishment and obeyed all of God's laws perfectly.

Before you can receive this gift, you need to repent of your sins and believe on Jesus Christ as your risen Lord and Saviour. Romans 10:9: *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

## Conclusion

Thank God that He loves us and provided a way of escape from His coming judgment. The only question is, "have you accepted the Saviour whom God sent you?"

Two thieves were crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ. One on His left and another on His right. But only one thief was saved. *"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."* (Luke 23:42-43 )

On that fateful day, the thief who repented from his sins and believed, went to heaven. The other did not. Which one will you be?

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