

## That's Not Fair!



...Or Is It?

Consider the following court cases.

### Case 1

You are the employer of a thriving company. You have a retirement savings account of \$10 million for yourself and 9 other employees. As one of these employees, I oversee and handle these retirement accounts. Without having your permission or the authority, I "borrow" these funds and try to make a quick profit for myself in a very risky venture. You can guess what happens. I lose it all.

So it comes before the judge, and you and the oth-

ers are naturally very upset and wanting justice. The judge asks me if I understand what I did was wrong. I say yes. He tells me I have been very wrong, but ultimately my good works outweigh my bad works and, after all, I haven't killed anyone. He slams down the gavel and says, "We'll let you go this time. Case dismissed!"

As the employer or one of the other employees, how would you honestly feel? Would this be fair or just? Of course not!

### Case 2

Well, then, let's look at a similar case but with a different ending. We have the same company, same employees, and the same lost funds. This time, however, I come before the judge, having stolen and lost all the retirement funds. He says that I have done wrong. I say I understand, but I have no money to pay it back. He asks me if I know who he is. I say, "Yes, Your Honor. You are known for being very honest and just in your judgments." He asks me further if I know he is quite wealthy. I reply that I have heard such rumors. Then he makes me this proposal: "If I give you a check for 10 million dollars as an absolute free gift, would you pass it on to the company from which you took it?" I say to the judge, "Are you serious? What do I have to do?" He says, "Only trust in me, and trust that the check is good." So I trust in him, the check is good, and I pay back the company from which I embezzled the money.

Now, as the employer, how do you feel? Was that outcome fair to you? Absolutely!

### Different Views

I shared these two scenarios with two men on different flights on my way to Belgium. One man, David, belonged to a large so-called Christian organization, and the other man, Tariq, was from Pakistan and was Muslim. In discussion with both these men, they had the same view of God, that He would somehow overlook all the wrong things we do. They both believed that as long as their good works outweighed their bad works, they had a good shot at getting into heaven.

What they didn't understand is that this would make God unjust and unfair, as in the first court case. After sharing the

above court cases with each of these men, they both responded in surprisingly different ways.

Tariq understood immediately the point that the judge represented Jesus Christ, and that He paid the price for what we have done wrong. He understood further that God asks us only to trust in Him alone for this forgiveness. Tariq told me he would definitely have to buy a Bible and read up on this more.

David, on the other hand, the Christian in name only, said, "Wow! Where do you ever find a judge like that?!" Somehow, the point of the story went right over his head. Why? I think it is because much of what is said today in "Christian" circles is just plain confusing.

### The Debt

You see, if we are honest with each other, we would have to admit that we have all done something wrong, such as wrong thoughts, an angry word, lying or cheating in some way. That is why the forgiveness of all the sins of the world, including ours, had to be paid by someone who could actually satisfy the payment required and pay the infinite price.

### The Gift

Just as the judge offered the man in the case above a free check for ten million dollars, so is Jesus Christ offering you right now the free gift of having all your sins forgiven. That is the greatest gift anyone can ever receive.

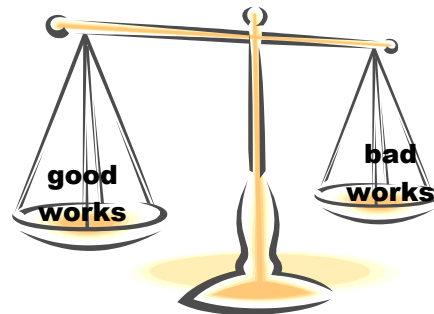
### The Requirement

If only we could understand the free gift offered to us by trusting in Jesus Christ alone who died for our sins and rose from the dead. He paid the price with His death on the cross and lives today to offer each one the total forgiveness of all they have done wrong. And what do you have to do for this? Just as in the story above, you must trust in Christ alone for this gift. It is not by trusting in our good works or goodness. It is not through keeping the Ten Commandments or through a religion. Rather, it is through our faith in the person of Jesus Christ alone.

What a gift! What a God! What a Savior! Will you trust in Him now?

Ephesians 2:8,9 in the Bible says that we are forgiven our sins by His grace (a free gift) when we put our trust in Christ. It is not by our works but an absolutely free gift, so that no one may brag.

Do it today. Accept the Judge's gracious ruling, and trust in Christ alone.



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