

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts February 2020

Christians Must Rest on the Promise of Justice

By: Chris Johnson



As I write this, we are in the early stages of President Trump's impeachment trial, in which we can be sure that we'll be hearing a lot of the word "justice." And, as we're looking forward to a Democrat primary election and a presidential election where progressive candidates will continue to press the nation's eyes against the distorted lens of "social justice," we can be sure that we'll be hearing the word "justice" abused.

In fact, issues of justice and injustice are all around us and, in too many occasions, it is those screaming for justice who are actually advocating injustice. Case in point would be the confrontation between Democrat presidential candidate

Elizabeth Warren's and a father at one of her campaign events, in which he asks if, under her plan to forgive student loans, he will be reimbursed for all of the payments he made while his friends were buying boats and having fun, instead of working to pay off their loans like he did.

"Of course not!" she replied.

Forgiving student debt sure **sounds nice**, but for those responsible enough to prioritize their payments, **it's anything but 'just.'**

In the impeachment trial, we hear both sides shouting for justice, hoping for completely opposite things, and we already know that whichever side does not get what they hope for out of the trial will soon be yelling about the injustice. It makes us wonder whether it's justice that is truly desired or vindication for the position they've declared support for.

That is not how justice works. Of course, in all

of the great old sculptures and seals and artwork of Western Civilization, justice is personified as a beautiful blind woman holding a balanced scale. **Justice weighs the evidence and makes a decision**, regardless of personal feelings about the accused's personality or position. That is the closest that imperfect, ignorant humans can get to true justice.

But there is a more perfect justice, which we cannot attain to – a justice made possible by knowing every detail of the case, all of the motivations of the accused and the accuser, all of the weaknesses and propensities and ambitions of the alleged victim and perpetrator. That, of course, is God's justice.

As we see the term "justice" used by so many different people to mean so many different things, it is important for Christians to remember that perfect justice is a promise from God. The death of Christ was a down payment as

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he took the punishment for those who believe on Him. Justice still awaits those who will not bend the knee to Him.

Those whose punishment Christ has not already taken, will still be punished for their sins, and not just abstract sins, but the specific occurrences of abuse of power, dishonesty, and betrayal that we see in our culture and politics today.

The hypothetical famously posed by Abraham is extremely relevant in the chaos of the day: “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Of course He will. Our God is good, and the government is upon His shoulders. The 46th President of the United States, whenever he or she is elected and whatever party they belong to, will be used by Him to glorify Himself and grow His church.

The treasonous lies and abuse of power on display in the impeachment trial will be avenged. The Nigerian college student executed for His Christian faith in January, and the eleven Christians beheaded for their faith in December, and Pastor Wang Yi in China imprisoned for 9 years for the crime of sharing Christ without allowing the communist Chinese government to dictate his sermons will see their tormentors held accountable.

Proverbs 28:5 says, **“Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely.”** As Christians, we will see injustice all around us, and we should do everything that we can to right those wrongs. Ultimately, however, despite our best efforts – it will be God who holds the wicked accountable. As Christian martyrs in Nigeria did in their last moments, or as Pastor Wang continues to do as he begins his time of imprisonment in China, **may we trust in the Judgment of God.**

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Final justice is eternal judgment and that is either an enormous blessing or a very terrifying reality that none can comprehend until that final day of judgment. The fact that we are today making the eternal bed in which we must one day lie should cause us fear and trepidation as we consider both the mercy and judgment of God. Therefore, let us run to Christ alone, and then run the race that God has set before us.

Let the following words of JC Ryle bring us to sober-mindedness: *“Let us settle it in our minds, that the future misery of the unbelievers who are lost is eternal. I am aware that this is an awful truth, and flesh and blood naturally shrink from the contemplation of it. But I am one of those who believe it is clearly revealed in Scripture, and I dare not keep it back in the pulpit. To my eyes eternal future happiness and eternal future misery appear to stand side by side. I fail to see how you can distinguish the duration of one from the duration of the other. If the joy of the believer is forever, then the sorrow of the unbeliever is also forever. If heaven is eternal, likewise so is hell.”*



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