



A Dilemma *That Only God Could Solve*

Proverbs 17:5-15

“If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; **then they shall justify the righteous and condemn the wicked**” (*Deut. 25:1*). Human judges were responsible before God to judge in a certain way. Innocent people should never be condemned; wicked men who have broken the law should not be justified.

How tragic when a country has a system of justice that punishes innocent law-abiding citizens and turns a blind eye toward the unlawful acts of the wicked!

This same principle of justice is restated in Proverbs 17:15—“**He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just**, even they both are abomination to the LORD.” Such a travesty of justice is abhorrent to the God who is perfectly just and righteous in all His ways.

Yet, should we not all be terrified? Are we not guilty? Are we not law breakers? Are we not in the class of people labeled as “wicked” (*Mark 7:20-23*)? The Holy One cannot turn a blind eye and justify the wicked. We are doomed, condemned and under the judgment of God.

Yet the Lord, in His grace, found a solution to this hopeless and impossible dilemma. He devised a way in which He could both punish the sinner, fulfilling the demands of justice, and also justify the sinner: “To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: **that He might be just, and the justifier** of him which believeth in Jesus” (*Rom. 3:26*). The penalty for our sins was completely paid when our Substitute “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (*1 Pet. 2:24*). In return, we receive God’s righteousness (*2 Cor. 5:21*). God now sees us perfectly righteous in Christ!

God has successfully justified the wicked without compromising His principles, to the praise of the glory of His grace!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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