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What You Need to Know About History's Most Important Trial

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HISTORY'S MOST IMPORTANT TRIAL

Last Monday you received a (hopefully helpful) story overview entitled, "Going to Church 1490 B.C." This issue of "What You Need to Know" has been prepared in similar fashion. Let me know what you think.

In the 1970's there was a case pending in Washington, D.C. entitled, "The United States of America versus Richard M. Nixon." The Supreme Court of the land made the historic decision concerning this case. But in the first four chapters of Romans, Paul describes a far more important case in a court of law. It could be entitled, "The Creator of this Universe Versus Three Men." Let us briefly note the legal facts of this case before the Universal and Sovereign Supreme Court!

- I. The Defendants:
 - A. A Pagan (Rom. 1:18-32)
 - B. A Moral Man (Rom. 2:1-16)
 - C. A Religious Man (Rom. 2:17-29)
- II. The Charge: High treason against the King of Kings!
- III. The Presiding Judge: The Lord Jesus Christ! (John 5:22)
- IV. The Detailed Indictment:
 - A. They did not glorify God (1:21)
 - B. They were not thankful (1:21)
 - C. They allowed their hearts to become darkened (1:21)
 - D. They worshipped idols and images (1:23)
 - E. They perverted sexually their own bodies (1:24)
 - F. They knew the seriousness of their crimes but still continued and even encouraged others to join them (1:32)
- V. The Jury:
 - A. The Law of God (2:12)
 - B. The Deeds of Man (2:6)
- VI. The Defense:
 - A. The Pagan Man

1. The Plea Rendered—"I should be acquitted on the grounds of ignorance."
2. The Plea Refuted—All man have at least the witness of conscience (1:19), and the witness of nature (1:20)

B. The Moral Man

1. The Plea Rendered—"I should be acquitted on the grounds of comparison. That is, I'm not as bad as the pagan savage."
2. The Plea Refuted—No man has the right to individually pass judgment upon another man. In so doing, he condemns himself before the Judge (2:1)

C. The Religious Man

1. The Plea Rendered—"I should be acquitted on the grounds that I know the law of God and have taught courses in religion."
2. The Plea Refuted—He simply did not practice what he preached! (2:22-24)

VII: The Verdict:

- A. The standing of the human race—none righteous! (3:10)
- B. The attitude of the human race—none sought God! (3:11)
- C. The works of the human race—none which did good (3:12)
- D. The conduct of the human race—
 1. Their talk is foul and filthy, like the stench from an open grave (3:13)
 2. Their tongues are loaded with lies, like the sting of deadly snakes (3:13)
 3. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness (3:14)
 4. They are quick to kill, hating anyone who disagrees with them (3:15)
 5. They leave behind them misery and trouble (3:16)
 6. They have no fear of God (3:18)

VIII. The Sentence: Spiritual death, to be forever separated from God to suffer throughout all eternity in the lake of fire! (Rev. 20:11-15)

IX: The Miracle:

Up to this point the case of God against Man has pretty well followed the format of earthly juris-prudence. But suddenly something totally different and unexpected takes place that would cause every earthly court reporter to gasp in amazement. After the Judge has carefully heard all the evidence and patiently listened to all the pleas, He finds no other choice but to invoke the supreme penalty, lest true justice be denied. But before the sentence is carried out, this same judge quietly closes the case book, lays down the heavenly gavel, rises to His feet, takes off His judicial robes and GOES OUT TO DIE FOR THE THREE DEFENDANTS! THIS, MY FRIEND, IS JUSTIFICATION!!!!

--Prepared by Dr. H. L. Willmington, Dean
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