

**The Vine Committee**

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Reformation 500

Years



**Brother  
Martin  
Writes**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 I was in JCC to witness and photograph an event that took 500 years in the making. The Roman Catholics and Lutherans commemorating 500 Years of the Reformation together.

Bishop Terry Kee shared in his homily that Martin Luther did not intend to split the church but to reform some of its errant practices. The Catholic Archbishop William Goh added that the Catholic Church believe in salvation by Grace, through Faith in Christ alone. He emphasised this by saying if good works can save, then Christ died for nothing.

In fact, this was one of the points which moved me from my Catholic upbringing to be a Lutheran, if there were any other way to Heaven, then Jesus Christ died for nothing. Jesus did not come to show us a way but He is The Way. *“No one comes to the Father except through me (Jesus).”* John 14:6b and *“Salvation is found in no one else, for*

*there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12

Skeptics may wonder how can one man’s life be worth the many? Take an example of a hostage situation. Supposing terrorists held 10,000 people in a hostage situation. Can one of the 10,000 people stand up and say, “Take me and let the rest go”? But what if Lee Hsien Loong came up to the terrorists and say take me and let my people go. What more, if God came and say, “Take me and let all the peoples go”? Yes, the life of that one man, God Himself, is ransom enough for the whole world.

Christmas is just around the corner and the lights in Orchard Road are reminding of the Advent. We think of Jesus as God’s gift to the world but He is more than that. He is the ransom paid for the sins of the world. If we think of Jesus as a gift, some people can reject the gift. However if we realize that He is the ransom for our sins, can all of us who have sinned reject the ransom that is given to set us free?

If you think you have no sins, just imagine our smart nation where there are cameras everywhere to catch you spitting, littering, speeding, jaywalking, shoplifting, malingering, surfing and all kinds of shameful acts. *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* Hebrews 4:13