

**The Vine Committee**

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**Brother  
Martin  
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Only a few days ago, I lost some colleagues who had committed an infringement which cost them their jobs. To the management, it doesn't matter how good your service record was, when you commit an infringement that is the end. How true it is

with God's laws too. In James 2:10, *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."* So when the Bible says, *"There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* (Romans 3:23), you better believe it. Just one tiny sin (infringement) and you have fallen short of God's standards.

To those who think good works can save you, I ask you to consider the above scenario. Even by human standards, goods works does not save. Similarly, if you always drive at 90 kmh but on only one occasion you sped at 120 kmh, you will surely be fined and get demerit points if you were caught. Your perfect record will have a stain on it.

If that is the bad news, what is the good news? *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.* (Romans 5:6) Over 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, at the right time, to save us. We celebrate Christmas day in remembrance of Christ coming into the world as a baby to pay the price for our sins. We could not pay it ourselves as all our righteous acts (good works) are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

However, do not despair of your sinful condition because God loves you and He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Sometimes the world think that Jesus is a present from God and we can easily reject the gift. Jesus is not a present but a ransom paid in blood for the sins of the whole world.

*Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were evil.* (John 3:18-19)

The good news of Christmas – because God loves you, He has saved you! Believe it!

*Martin Cheah*