

The Vine This Month

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Dialect Outing to

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HOM Editorial

Every morning I have the privilege to take taxi to work because of my early starting time (5:30am). The taxi drivers will use various routes to fetch me from my home in Jurong West to Tiger Brewery in Tuas. Some go by AYE, some by PIE, while others prefer to take the inner roads, like Boon Lay Way and International Road. Today, the driver travelled by Yuan Ching Road to International Road and then the AYE. I took the initiative to talk to him about the various routes that can lead me to my final destination.

I mentioned to him that it is like the allegory about many roads (religions) that can lead to heaven. However there is a caveat, all the taxi drivers can only bring me to the gate of the factory, but I am the only one who can get in because I have a gate pass. I left the story at this point and I hope the taxi driver got the idea.

I told the same story to my transport contractor and he smiled knowingly because he knows I am a Christian. Later in the morning, I told it to my colleague who is a temporary staff from Malaysia. He mentioned to me that he attended a Methodist church in JB in his teens but now he prays to Kuan Yin. When I ended my story, he said he got the point. However he tried to clarify that all religions taught people to do good. I agreed with him that all religions teach people to do good because we are all bad.

“All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” Romans 3:12

Then I asked him to read the small Gideon’s Bible which I got at the JCKK graduation recently, pointing him to Romans 3:20, *“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”*

I leave it to God’s grace that he may find *“This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”* Romans 3:22-24.

Martin Cheah