



# Newsletter

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## NOT GUILTY!



It seems homicide investigations are popular these days. Night after night television detectives solve the most difficult murder cases. And day after day we read of cases where people are declared guilty or not guilty of terrible crimes.

So, lets look for a minute at the case of Christ. Who killed Jesus? Bill O'Riley seems to think he's got it figured out, but then he discounts the Bible which we read and know, so we truly do understand who killed Jesus. We know that it was those evil religious leaders who really killed Jesus. After all Matthew 26:3-4 informs us that "Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together ... they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him." Case closed, I guess the religionists are guilty.

But what about the soldiers? Aren't they the ones that really killed Jesus? "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic ...." Right there in John 19:23 it tells us that the soldiers crucified Jesus.

Yet, what about Pilate? Doesn't he share in at least some of the blame? Afterall, Matthew 27:24 says that "When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; *see to that yourselves.*" He sort of wimped out and tried to absolve himself of the decision to kill Jesus, but I think he must bear some guilt.

Of course the real answer about the killing of Jesus is that you and I are guilty. Isaiah 53:5 indicates that "He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities." And verse six reveals that "The Lord [God] has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him [Christ]." Indeed we are guilty of deicide, the killing of God!

And yet, what do you do with an undead murder victim? Amazingly, Jesus didn't stay in the grave. He arose as the angel announced that first Easter morn, "He is not here, but he has risen." (Luke 24:6). It's really hard to prosecute a murderer if the murdered doesn't stay dead! Isn't it amazing that because Christ lives he can say to his killers, "Not guilty!"

Looking Up,  
Pastor Chuck Circle