

Special note: This week's feature article is an entry from the blog of Charlie Arms, "A Venture in Titusville," used with permission. Charlie is the pastor of New Venture Church in Titusville, Florida.

Casey Anthony: Innocent vs. Not Guilty?

First of all, I have to admit I have NOT watched one single moment of "THE TRIAL." Of course, Floridians know this means the Casey Anthony Trial. People have been obsessed over this "event" which receives national attention. Having lived through the infamous OJ Simpson trial, I have come to accept that many people in America apparently have nothing better to do with their lives than to be wrapped up in the life of someone they don't really know!

As a conscientious parent, I will admit my disdain for Casey Anthony's parental oversight and my amazement at the circus of her life. However, a jury of her peers found her "not guilty" of murder. Apparently, the "evidence" wasn't strong enough for those responsible for the decision to "convict" Casey Anthony. Ultimately, only Casey Anthony (and GOD) know the full truth regarding what happened between her and her daughter. Our legal system may be flawed, because people run it, but I am blessed that we go through the process. I would rather a few people "get away" with something than someone receives the death penalty (or a prison sentence) that didn't do it. Do you want to know why I feel this way? Because God is JUST and NOBODY ever truly "gets away with it"!

The reaction from this decision does teach me is that people desire JUSTICE! We hate it when we feel someone gets away with hurting others! The Psalmist cries out about injustice with the following words: *"For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong."* (Psalm 73: 3-4).

When people do bad things, or are bad people, we scratch our heads over why they seem to prosper. No doubt, Casey Anthony will probably get a book deal, a movie, and will remain a celebrity for years to come. We must not forget that a declaration of "not guilty" is not the same as being "innocent" of a crime! "Not guilty" only means there wasn't enough evidence, in the eyes of the jury, to convict.

We MUST move on and NOT allow anger to fester over this, as God will deal with all things in due time. Even the Psalmist came to this conclusion as he writes in Psalm 73:

¹⁸ *Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.*

¹⁹ *How suddenly are they destroyed,*

completely swept away by terrors!

*²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.*

He goes on to write:

*²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.*

Please remember when you see people "get away" with something, God sees it too, and His Justice is TRUE and FINAL! In the end, we should worry more over our own guilt...not that of others!

Here is how Psalm 73 ends:

*But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds. (v. 28)*

Blessings,
Pastor Charlie