

..... it is not justice, but the state cannot enforce real justice. It has to deal with results. There is no other fair way in which the state could act. And so the laws of the state are based upon actions, and the results of the actions. But God has to deal with us in fairness, in accordance with our deserts, and the man who shoots and tries to kill another man, and the bullet goes through the soft part of the skin in the back of the ...1½...., and he recovers, is just as heinous in the sight of God as the one who was a dead shot, and it went through the heart.

Our Lord Jesus Christ brings this out very clearly in Matt. 5:17-24. "It is not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets...First be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gifts." How plainly our Lord brings out that it is the attitude rather than the particular action that ...3½... sin in His sight. It is the intent of the heart. It is the way one has, rather than the particular results that come. One might feel anger at another, but he is a prudent man. He would not risk the injury and danger that would come to himself if he struck out and hurt the man. Another man feels angry and he has more courage, or less careful thought than the other, and he strikes out and kills the man toward whom he is angry. It is the attitude of the heart ~~that~~ that makes the sin. It is not the external acts in God's sight. Man cannot judge this way, but God must judge this way, and God does judge this way. God is interested in motives and attitudes. All sin is on a level in his sight, because the wages of sin, not of a particular sin, is death.

I knew some ~~he~~ years ago of a man who went walking in the mountains in California, and he saw signs up there, no smoking on the trail, ~~no~~ smoke only at particular points. But this man ~~said~~ said, Nobody is around, nobody sees me, what difference does it make. And he smoked the cigarette through, and he finished and he tossed it aside into the bush, and it landed on a flat rock about three inches away from anything burnable, and there it smothered out and5.... and nothing happened. Another man, the next day ~~he~~ was walking in a similar area there in the mountains, and he saw the