

## REASONABLE DOUBT

A defendant was on trial for murder. There was strong evidence indicating guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement the defense lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put to you that you have a reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt. I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied, "Oh, we looked, but your client didn't."

--*Cybersalt*

**WE SHOULD BE REMINDED** that there will be a day in which we all shall stand in Judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). At that time there will be no tricky lawyer to get us acquitted. We are all guilty before God (Rom. 3:23), and worthy of death (Rom. 6:23a), but through Jesus, who died for us, we are offered the gift of life (Rom. 6:23b). Only in Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord, is justification possible (Rom. 3:23-26; 4:25). --Ron