

The Case For Capital Punishment

How It Saved My Life

By

Dr. Max D. Younce

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Sharon Skjong.
Thank you, Sharon, for a great idea!

Table of Contents

Dedication.....	v
Patrolman Max D. Younce.....	9
Preface.....	11
Introduction.....	17
Genesis 9:6 Is God's Will Today	17
Capital Punishment for Specific Crimes Is In the Law..	18
The Cities of Refuge	24
Accidental or Premeditated	25
The Family Revenger Was to Face the Condemned.	25
Change of Venue with Time to Investigate.....	26
No Money in Exchange for Life.	26
Two or Three Witnesses Were Required.....	27
Part 1	33
Capital Punishment Was Instituted by God, Himself ..	33
Capital Punishment Withheld from Cain by God.....	38
Capital Punishment by the Flood.....	49
Part 2.....	54
Capital Punishment on Sodom & Gomorrah	57
Capital Punishment on Egypt Twice.....	66
Capital Punishment in Ohio: 1885 to the Present (1)....	75
Who's the Victim?	76
Capital Punishment in Ohio: 1885 to the Present (2) ..	80
God Places Capital Punishment on Certain Laws.....	81

Part 3.....	87
“Now consider this, ye that forget God...”	87
Capital Punishment for Worshipping the Golden Calf.	98
Capital Punishment – Korah and His Followers.....	102
Capital Punishment – 14,700 People Accuse God.....	106
Numbers 25:1-7: Capital Punishment+Contradiction	107
Part 4.....	110
“Swift and Sure Punishment”	110
Capital Punishment on Wicked King Ahaziah.....	110
185,000 Assyrians Executed	112
“Swift and Sure Punishment”	113
Death of Ananias and Sapphira Brings Fear	115
Capital Punishment in Corinth	117
Capital Punishment Is Responsibility of the Courts....	118
The Night When Capital Punishment Saved My Life..	120
Headlines As Burglary Ring is Uncovered.....	122
Gun Laws.....	125
Driving Drunk	126
Drug Laws.....	127
Old Newspaper Clippings	133

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Patrolman Max D. Younce

Preface

I, definitely, enjoyed the law enforcement part of my life, and when I was privileged to join the Police Department, it was a proud day for me. The Chief of Police who hired me was John Hennessy, one of the finest police officers that Troy ever had. He ran the department efficiently, and honestly, and did not put up with nonsense of any kind. Sadly, after Chief Hennessy retired, the leadership of the department began to degrade. There were several fine men on the force who would have done a great job, but, for some reason, politics, or whatever, they never had the chance.

We did not have dash cams, AK47s, riot gear, or cameras on our shoulders. We did have a Thompson Machine Gun to use when we transported large sums of money.

We were issued a set of handcuffs, a nightstick, a foot long flashlight, and a standard gun belt and police revolver. I was sent to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to learn how to classify prints. One of my responsibilities was to file wanted posters and outstanding warrants. I was shocked to learn how many murderers, rapists, and kidnappers were running free, and had been for years.

A full force for our department was approximately 18 men and was made up of a chief, three lieutenants, and sufficient manpower to maintain the three 8-hour shifts needed for a city the size of Troy, Ohio.

When I joined the department, I was a person who believed that a policeman was someone you could always trust. While the majority of the men that I worked with were as honest as the day is long, there were also a few who were just as crooked as the crooks! During my time on the force, I arrested a judge, one lieutenant who had been on the force for over 17 years, two policemen, and one fireman.

I am sure you have heard this one in a sermon many times before. One lieutenant on the department would go out to “shake doors” on all the business places at night, and when he found one open, he was supposed to call the owner to come down, and lock up. Unfortunately, he never made the call until he had relieved the store owner of whatever merchandise he wanted. Eventually, he obtained keys to about 100 business places and did not have to wait until he found an open door.

I became aware of his activities in 1964. “Other policemen are involved in this thing,” he stated at the time of his trial. Can you believe the other two, both of whom outranked me as a Patrolman First Class, let this lieutenant take the fall for them? Don’t you wonder what kind of men would let a fellow, near-20 year, police officer go to jail, lose his pension for all those years, in fact, lose everything?

I knew who the other two individuals were; I just caught this one first, probably, as he was the most brazen. I believe he thought nothing would happen to him because he would be protected by the other two officers and other city officials. He was certainly wrong about that. If there is one thing this lieutenant should have known, it is “There is no honor among thieves.”

By now, your brain is clicking, remembering that the Troy Police Department was supposed to have a chief, and *three* lieutenants, and I have just arrested one of the lieutenants. That leaves two lieutenants and a chief.

I will hasten to say that my friend, Lieutenant Dean Matthews, was as honest a man as you will ever find. I would have considered it an honor to serve under him, had he been Chief of Police. That was not to be. Lieutenant Dean Matthews scored highest of the five candidates who took the exam and should have gotten the promotion to succeed Chief Hennessy. Somewhere between test results and his appointment, it was suddenly discovered that figur-

ing in efficiency ratings would change everything. However, there were NO efficiency ratings in existence, as they had not been kept. Fuel was added to the fire when suit was filed by the four “sore losers” in the Second District Court of Appeals.

Well, it can't be Lieutenant Matthews. He's an honest man. Are you still counting? We are now down to one lieutenant and the chief. I will now refer you to the clippings in the back, but I hope you will read my book first.

Shortly before the lieutenant was apprehended, he walked into the station one night and sneered, “Well, Younce, have you caught any thieves, lately? I said, “Not yet, but they are all wearing blue uniforms.”

Here is how it went. I had been watching this lieutenant for some time, and he had a pattern. (I also knew there were more because they communicated by taps on the 2-way radio.) When he came on duty, he would take his first meal break, someone else would come in, and set desk until his return. If he took the cruiser on his first break (11 pm-12 pm), he was just going for his coffee and donuts. If he walked, he was stealing.

One of the guys, who was in on it, called to tell me he had not taken the cruiser, and he had just seen him go by the police station carrying a big box. He thought he put it out back in some bushes. I had a new man I was breaking in with me. I believe it was Gail Mourne.

The rest of the pattern was that he would set desk until time for his next break. At that time, another officer would relieve him at the desk, and he would hop in the cruiser, pick up his stolen goods, take them home, and return to duty after his break period was over as though nothing happened.

My shift ended at 2 a.m., and Mourne and I changed into plain clothes and returned to the scene as fast as we

could, parking out of sight. We searched all the bushes, and finally found the box containing much more than the \$72 worth of merchandise the chief typed up on the first affidavit. It was a large box, and full of expensive suits, sweaters, etc. As I recall, we, also, photographed the box, and its contents, before replacing them in the bushes.

I, then, set up a stakeout, positioning Mourne across the street, out of sight in a church stairwell. I positioned myself in the bushes, close enough to the box that I could just, silently, step out, and grab him, but unseen. I took care to scrape all the dry twigs from my standing place and to break some of the branches so I could see clearly. I wanted to be able to move quietly, and I succeeded. He never heard me coming!

I warned Mourne, "If he, somehow, gets the drop on me, have your gun drawn when you come across that street and be ready to shoot. This is not a game and he will shoot both of us, and say we are the thieves. I have to say, Mourne followed through great!

Our thieving lieutenant suspected nothing. Here he came in the cruiser, proceeding slowly down the alley behind the houses as he looked for the box, and made sure he had not been seen. He got out of the cruiser, bent over to pick up the box, and when he straightened up he felt the end of my gun barrel shoved in his back. I told him, "Drop your gun belt, I will remove the gun. If you even make a move for that gun, I will shoot you right now!" I handcuffed him, immediately, and I arrested him. By that time, Mourne was there, too, and we loaded the handcuffed lieutenant, and the evidence in the cruiser, and proceeded to the police station which was just around the corner.

I, then, called a very nervous Chief Brown who, immediately, came down and went straight into his office to collect himself behind a closed door. It is remarkable how the inventory of stolen items in the box changed when he typed

up the affidavit so that his friend would only be charged with a misdemeanor. He listed 9 shirts, a sweater, and 3 hats, a mere \$72 worth of merchandise. And the chief stated the burglary of the clothing store was still under investigation. He still didn't know who did that. Yeah!

While we're making sure the lieutenant has nothing else on him, he says, "Oh, I *really* have to go to the bathroom." When he shut the door, I could hear the clink of the keys as he was trying to flush them down the toilet. Those 100 keys to the business places in town just would not cooperate, and the evidence was carefully retrieved. He had stolen goods in his possession, which he hid in the bushes outside the station, behind a house, and was in uniform when I arrested him.

When a warrant was obtained for his home and garage, they were filled with stolen property taken from local merchants.

But, it was my case. I set it up, and I arrested him.

Another of the policemen I arrested was my partner, one of the best policemen I ever worked with. He just thought like a criminal. He was a very likable guy, but without character. We worked many felony cases together.

My buddy, along with another officer, was arrested for 1. Consorting with a married woman. 2. Consuming intoxicating liquor in an automobile. 3. Consuming intoxicating liquor while in partial uniform. They claimed they were not consortng but were just taking the woman home, and she refused to get out of the car. They further claimed that she had promised them, if they took her to another city in the area, she would get out of the car. Well, a complaint had been filed by the husband, and their careers as policemen in the city of Troy were over. They were fired.

I will just elaborate on one more. I had to arrest a fireman for assault and battery against his own son. His son

had turned eighteen, and he took him to a local bar to teach him to drink, and “make a man” out of him. They got in a fight, and his son had to go to the hospital. I arrested the father and charged him with assault and battery. His poor son’s face looked like it had gone through a meat grinder!

This is just a brief commentary, and I want to end with some encouraging thoughts. I cherish many friendships from that time in my life, and the memories of our time together are precious. I won’t attempt to call them by name. I might forget one, and I certainly wouldn’t want to do that.

I have a scrapbook full of many, old faded clippings. I only included the reproduced clippings in this book so you would know I am telling the truth. When it comes to the law, and the court system, I know what I am talking about. I’ll be glad to show you the originals, as I still have them. It was an important part of my life which, I believe, prepared me in an even better way to serve the Lord.

I will end on a positive note. Nothing in law enforcement can even compare to the excitement, and joy, of giving out the message that Christ has died to pay for our sins, and, if we believe that, we will have eternal life.

Instead of apprehending a criminal, and locking him up, you have changed someone’s eternity from Hell to Heaven...and set them free!

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God. (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction

Genesis 9:6 Is God's Will Today

We find God did not implement capital punishment for the first murder, when Cain killed Abel, or all during the 1656 years before the flood. He wanted to show mankind what would happen when murderers are not put to death.

After the flood, the institution of capital punishment was given to Noah as part of the unconditional Noahic Covenant. What is a "covenant, you ask? A covenant is an agreement, or contract, made between God and man, binding them together. There are two kinds:

1. "Conditional," its formula being: "If thou will" (Exodus 19:5). They depend upon the faithfulness of man.

2. "Unconditional," its formula being: "I will" (Genesis 9:11). Unconditional covenants are not based upon what man will do, but, upon the faithfulness of God. Dispensations and Covenants are linked together.

The unconditional Noahic Covenant is a universal covenant with all mankind, established before the Law was ever given. It runs from the flood until the New Heavens and the New Earth, or to the end of time. Remember, time begins with Mankind and ends with mankind.

This principle, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." (Genesis 9:6) was instituted as part of the unconditional Noahic Covenant, linked to the Dispensation of Human Government, and enacted before Moses was even born, or the Law had been given to the nation of Israel. The Law only amplified upon capital punishment when God gave specific penalties for specific crimes which included the death penalty.

God did not set the principle of capital punishment for murder because He is mean and vindictive. Our Creator loves His creation and proved it when He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to sacrifice Himself on the Cross as “the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

Capital punishment for taking a human life was God’s will immediately after the flood, and through all following dispensations. Capital punishment is God’s will for the Church Age, today. Why? God knew this was the only way society could be controlled against Satan’s men. This is what Christ told Israel’s religious leaders,

“Ye are of *your father the devil*, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a **MURDERER** from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

— John 8:44

Influenced by Satan, Cain murdered Abel because he could not stand to see Abel’s offering accepted, and his rejected.

“Not as *Cain, who was of that wicked one*, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.” — 1 John 3:12

The Jews, of Christ’s day, could not stand Christ’s words of indictment, and, after bringing false witnesses against Him, they crucified Him.

If you are actively witnessing for Christ, today, the religious crowd (Satan’s crowd) will do the same to you. If you are not experiencing some type of persecution from the lost, you are not witnessing.

Capital Punishment for Specific Crimes Is In the Law

Therefore, we find the complete Law (the Moral, Civil, and Ceremonial Codes), some 722 in total, were given

when God chose the nation of Israel. At that time, God put specific punishments on specific crimes, because he wanted to clean up a nation. He wanted to have a people who would love him, serve him, and be an example to the world. They were to point everyone to God.

Israel was to be that “shining city on a hill,” described in Matthew 5:16.

“ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

— Matthew 5:16

Unfortunately, the World was not impressed by Israel’s effort to win them. That responsibility has now been handed to all Christians, Jew, and Gentile, during the Church Age.

As we have said, Genesis 9:6 is not a part of the Mosaic Law. It is a part of the Noahic Covenant, a universal and unconditional covenant made with all mankind, and is God’s will until the time of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

At the Great White Throne Judgment, which occurs before the New Heavens and the New Earth, God, Himself, will levy the largest incidence of capital punishment there will ever be. The Lost of all ages will be brought to stand before the Great White Throne. The books will be opened. First, the Book of Life will be opened to prove their name is not written there. Then, the books of works will be opened to find their degrees of punishment for all eternity.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (12)

“ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

— Revelation 20:12 and 15

It will not be “Bring out the babes, the booze, and the Black Jack table, as some imagine. The Lake of Fire is a real place of darkness, and torment, where men will gnaw their tongues in pain for all eternity. There will be no one to reach out to for comfort. The person next to you will not even be aware of your presence, as they will be consumed by dealing with their own pain! Don’t let the Lake of Fire be the place you will spend your eternity with these devastating words ringing in your ears,

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”

— Matthew 25:41

The law given to Moses contains sixteen different offenses that capital punishment was put on.

1. Under the law of Moses, the death penalty was required in cases of premeditated murder (Exodus 21:12-14,22-23; Leviticus 24:17; Numbers 35:16-21). It did not include accidental homicide, which we call “manslaughter.”

Two men might be fighting, and cause the death of an innocent bystander, or her unborn infant. Exodus 12:22, 23 is positive proof that God views abortion as premeditated first-degree murder.

“If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart *from her*, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*.(22)

And if *any* mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,”

— Exodus 21:22-23

Explanation of Exodus 21:22, 23. If a pregnant woman is hurt as a result of two men fighting, and it causes her fruit (the preborn child) to be born so prematurely that the child dies (that is the “mischief that follows”) the death

penalty, or capital punishment is to be levied, “then thou shalt give life for life.”

All of these idiots on the Supreme Court who voted for abortion, which is the premeditated first-degree murder of a living child, should be sentenced to death. Representative Chris Smith says there have been "well over" 54 million abortions since 1973.

— *Chris Smith* on Thursday, March 8th, 2012 in a speech on the House floor says there have been "well over" 54 million abortions since 1973. (That is the year of *Roe vs. Wade*

Did you know the liberals have now proceeded to “situations where after-birth abortions are permitted?

HOW FAR DOWN ARE WE GOING, AMERICA?

2. Kidnapping was a capital crime under the Old Testament Law (Exodus 21:16; Deuteronomy 24:7). Many children have simply disappeared on their way home from school, never to be seen again. God would not tolerate such a thing in the Old Testament, and crimes such as this would be stopped in America today if the punishment were death. Kidnapping would be taken more seriously, and the statistics would decline tremendously.

3. In the Old Testament, a person could be put to death for striking or cursing his parents (Exodus 21:15,17; Leviticus 20:9). In the New Testament Christ said this,

“ For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.” — Matthew 15:4 (Also, see Mark 7:10)

4. Incurable rebelliousness against a priest or a judge (those in authority) was punishable by death (Deuteronomy 17:12). A stubborn, disobedient, rebellious son who would not submit to parents, or civil authorities, was to be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 21:18-21).

5. Sacrificing to false gods was a capital crime in the Old Testament (Exodus 22:20).

6. Violating the Sabbath brought the death penalty (Exodus 35:2; Numbers 15:32-36).

7. Blasphemy, or cursing God, warranted the death penalty (Leviticus 24:10-16,23).

8. The false prophet, specifically one who tried to entice the people to idolatry, was to be executed (Deuteronomy 13:1-11), as were the people who were so influenced (Deuteronomy 13:12-18).

9. Human sacrifice was a capital crime (Leviticus 20:2). The sacrifice would be a sweet little baby, laid to burn to a crisp on the red-hot arms of Molech. This was an idol whose arms were stretched out like a spit over the raging fire in his furnace belly.

They would have men beating drums so the “worshippers” could not hear the baby’s screams. Just like today. The abortionists “beat our ear drums” telling us pre-born babies do not suffer pain when they are pulled apart in the womb. But what about the film, “Silent Scream,” which portrays the agony on the face of a sweet little one when it was visible in a sonogram while being aborted?

God hates this!

10. Divination, or using the “magical” arts, was a capital crime, therefore, under Mosaic law, witches, sorcerers, wizards, mediums, charmers, soothsayers, diviners, spiritists, and enchanters were to be put to death (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:26,31; 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-14).

11. Adultery was punishable by death under the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 22:22). Can you imagine what would happen in our own country if adultery brought the death penalty? Most of Hollywood

would be wiped out, as well as a sizeable portion of the rest of our population!

12. Bestiality, i.e., having sexual relations with an animal, was punishable by death (Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 20:15-16). (Something I became disgustedly aware of when I encountered it during my time on the Police Department. It was a shock to me to realize people did such things.

13. Incest was a capital offense in the Old Testament (Leviticus 18:6-17; 20:11-12,14). This disgusting offense was, also, quite a surprise to me in my early years on the police department.

14. Homosexuality was a capital crime (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13).

15. Premarital sex brought the death penalty (Leviticus 21:9; Deuteronomy 22:20-21).

16. Rape of an espoused, or married, woman was a capital crime in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 22:25-27). Again, imagine what would happen in this country if rape brought the death penalty! It should, as it often confers a “life” that is worse than death on the victim. Much of the horrific treatment of women, now taking place in our society, would be terminated.

The liberal, bleeding hearts of society, today, take particular pleasure in throwing the commandment that says, “Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13) into your face.

The words should actually be translated “Thou shalt do no murder” (Exodus 20:13). They have assumed that the law forbade taking human life under any circumstances. But, as we have seen, God requires the death penalty for some sixteen crimes. I emphasize, the commandment should have been translated, “You shall do no murder.” (See Matthew 5:21; 19:18; Luke 18:20; Mark 10:19). Let us quote our Savior from Matthew 19:18,

“ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder,....”

— Matthew 19:18a

The Eighth Commandment was a safeguard against individuals taking the law into their own hands, and exercising their own vigilante law. God wants the execution of law breakers to be carried out by, duly-constituted, legal authorities, as He makes perfectly clear in Romans 13:1-5. We cover this in Part 4

Romans 13:1-5 clearly teaches that the state, and federal government, have the God-ordained responsibility to keep law and order, and to protect its citizens against evil-doers. The word “sword” in this passage refers to capital punishment. God wants, duly-constituted, civil authority to impose the death penalty upon citizens who commit crimes worthy of death.

The Cities of Refuge

The cities of refuge were part of the distribution of the Promised Land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Only one tribe, the Levites, was not given land. Instead, they were to be the priests of the Lord and the overseers of the tabernacle with all its rites and furnishings. As the Levites had no territory allocated to them in the conquest of Canaan, they were distributed throughout the land in forty-eight cities appropriated to their use. Of these forty-eight cities, six were designated as cities of refuge.

The Mosaic Law stated that anyone who committed a murder was to be put to death (Exodus 21:14). But for accidental deaths, God set aside these cities to which the murderer could flee for refuge (Exodus 21:13). He would be safe from the family member charged with avenging the victim’s death (Numbers 35:19) until the case could go to trial.

The congregation would judge to find if the attacker acted unintentionally. If he did, he would return to the city of refuge and live there safely until the death of the high

priest who was in office at the time of the trial, at which point he could return to his property. If the attacker left the city of refuge before the death of the high priest, however, the family revenger would have the right to kill him and not be “guilty of blood.” (Numbers 35:24-28).

The six refuge cities were Kadesh, Shechem, Kirjatharba, Bezer, Ramoth-Gilead, Golan (Joshua 20:7-8). There were to be three cities on each side of the Jordan River which had a history of flooding.

“ These six cities shall be a refuge, *both* for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.” — Numbers 35:15

Accidental or Premeditated?

God gives great detail about the cities of refuge in Chapter 35 of the Book of Numbers. He even lays out legal precedence to show the difference between accidental death, or manslaughter, and premeditated murder, in Numbers 35:16-18.

The Family Revenger Was to Face the Condemned.

If the individual is found guilty of premeditated murder, the family revenger is to “slay the murderer when he meeteth him.” (Numbers 35:19). The phrase “when he meeteth him,” suggests that the family revenger was to look the murderer in the face at his execution, and not perform his duty with an attitude of hate. (Numbers 35:20).

Executions, though vivid, were to teach a lesson. God views all lives as precious, even those suffering the death penalty, or capital punishment, for murdering someone. The process of execution was to be done with dignity. The “revenger of blood” had to take the responsibility.

In a nation of twelve tribal identities, loyalties are strong, and when a person dies at the hand of another, whether accidentally, or premeditated, emotion, and not

reason takes over. The situation usually escalates, and more blood flows. We have many tribal nations in our world today, harboring long-standing differences. We have only to look back to the tent of the Patriarch, Abraham, where we find Isaac, and Ishmael, half brothers born in the same tent to the same father, yet the war goes on today, centuries later.

Change of Venue with Time to Investigate.

God, in effect, by allowing a “manslayer” to reach the refuge city, gives a period of time to “cool off.” The refuge city would also be a “change of venue,” away from the victim’s family of accusers. It would be a place where people, who had not been involved in the original incident, could take testimony from credible witnesses who could testify without fear of reprisal, assess the facts, and come to a logical verdict, “without a shadow of a doubt,” as we say today.

No Money in Exchange for Life.

Finally, no “satisfaction,” was to be taken on the behalf of the one judged guilty, or on behalf of those found not guilty.

“And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. (32)

So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye *are*: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.”

— Numbers 35:32-33

The word “satisfaction” is translated from the Hebrew word, “kaphar,” and means, properly, a *cover*, [of bitumen] such as was used on the Ark. Literally, it means a redemption price, a ransom, or a sum of money. There was to be NO money paid to a judge to redeem a murderer from death. This would be “blood money, or ...” the price of blood.” There was to be no “cover up” with a sum of money.

That was why the priests in the temple would not let Judas return the 30 pieces of silver they had paid him to betray Christ. When he threw the silver on the floor, (Matthew 27:3-5) they could not simply pick it up and return it to the Temple Treasury. “It was the price of blood.”

“And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It **IS NOT LAWFUL** for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.”

— Matthew 27:6

Two or Three Witnesses Were Required.

There must be two or three witnesses before anyone could be condemned to die.

“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

— Deuteronomy 17:6

“Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person *to cause him* to die.”

— Numbers 35:30

Why was God so clear about the use of capital punishment in the laws He gave to the nation of Israel? He gives the answer in the last two verses of Numbers, Chapter 35.

“So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye *are*: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it. (33)

Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: **for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.**”

— Numbers 35:33-34

God tells Israel not to defile the land with blood “...for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.” The Tabernacle, and the Ark of the Covenant, where God met Israel with the Shekinah Glory, had traveled with them for their forty years in the wilderness. Later, after Jerusalem became the capital, the Temple would be built, the Ark of the

Covenant installed in the Holy of Holies, and God would “dwell among the children of Israel in Jerusalem.”

Here is what God said to the Apostle John as he beheld the glories of the New Heaven and the New Earth, where all Christians will be at home, one day,

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. — Revelation 21:3

The only blood that God wanted to be spilled in the land of Israel, at that time, was that of Israel’s sincere sacrifices to cover their sin. He wanted them to be looking forward, in belief, to the day when they would see the coming of the Messiah, “...Christ, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

At the right time, our kind, loving, and just, God would even allow his “only begotten Son,” to be sentenced to capital punishment, with His death penalty sentence to be carried out by wicked hands. The Apostle Peter told the assembled crowds on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: (22)

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: (23)

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

— Acts 2:22-24

As I have often pointed out, we could have lifted Christ up with holy hands of belief, saying, “Lord, we know you must go to the Cross, and shed your precious blood, for, without it, there is no salvation.

No, God did not want the land of Israel, where He is one day going to put His Name and dwell with men, to be filled with murderous blood.

Even the blood of Abel, the first murder victim in the Bible, cried out to God from the ground. (Genesis 4:10) The land of Israel was waiting for the sacrificial blood of our Savior to be shed on that Roman Cross for the sins of the world. (John 3:16)

Yes, the legal procedures of our Just and Loving God are right and fair. If they were followed today, we would not be living in a world where acts of law breaking, violence, and murder are all around us.

God's laws were good procedures, and many were followed in our court systems of yesterday. Today, the liberal, lovey-dovey, bleeding hearts in our churches, state and federal governments, and the Supreme Court accuse our God of being mean, and sadistic, when He has to give capital punishment to control the lives of Satan's men. It appears the liberal, lovey-dovey bleeding hearts of men, today, do not want to be controlled.

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, the great Apostle Paul has looked down through time and revealed to us a candid camera picture of how wicked the times we live in are.

“For in the last days perilous times shall come. (1)

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (2)

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (3)

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (4)

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” — 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Let us see what capital crimes we can pick in just these few verses.

- Offense: “blasphemers” (Verse 2).
- Indictment: Leviticus 24:16.
- Offense: “disobedient to parents” (Verse 2).
- Indictment: Exodus 21:17
- Offense: “without natural affection, i.e. homosexuality. (Verse 3).
- Indictment: Leviticus 18:22.

All the above are worthy of capital punishment in God’s Book, the Word of God.

Do Satan’s men need to be controlled? As I proceed with the messages in this book, I will lay out the reasons why mankind is not controlled, and sin and rebellion are running wild. The primary reasons the world is in the shape it is...

“ Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

— Ecclesiastes 8:11

“ Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

— Habakkuk 1:4

“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.”

— Proverbs 25:5

Of course, Solomon, the inspired writer of Proverbs was speaking of his day, but these inspired words could certainly apply today.

If we could roll back the clock to a time when homosexuality was a sin, not a lifestyle; transgender rest rooms were not mandated for schools; marriage was between one man and one woman, the Ten Commandments were allowed on courthouse lawns, and nativity scenes depicting the Birth of Christ could be placed in public places, it would go a long way in restoring our trust in government.

Especially if government applied our law according to Romans, Chapter 13:1-5.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (1)

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (2)

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: (3)

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. (4)

Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

— Romans 13:1-5

If we had honest judges that applied the law of the land, honestly and fairly, without regard to race, creed, or color, citizens would trust the court systems, even on capital punishment verdicts.

If the state, and federal governing bodies, would pass laws protecting American citizens that are constitutional, and which the courts would then enforce, once again, citizens would trust court decisions, even in capital punishment cases.

God has certainly given ample precedent in His Word, the Bible, and that is what we are going to study in the upcoming messages on...

The Case for Capital Punishment

How It Saved My Life.

By: Dr. Max D. Younce

Note: Parts 1 through 4 have been transcribed directly from radio programs which have been aired on local radio, and streamed online through YouTube.

The Case For Capital Punishment

Part 1

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood,
by man shall his blood be shed: for
in the image of God made he man.” — Genesis 9:6

Capital Punishment Was Instituted by God, Himself

Thank you! It is so good to have you join us at the same time each week. It is a privilege to have you as our radio listener, and we do hope that you have your Bibles out as you follow along in our Bible studies.

We're going to begin a new series on the subject of capital punishment. Some of the issues we're going to speak about, during these next few messages on capital punishment, you do not hear discussed in churches anymore. I believe preachers are afraid they will offend someone. They say, “Well, it's controversial.” May I just say this? There is nothing in the Bible that is controversial, except in the mind of humanity. When God speaks, all things are Yea, Yea, or Nay, Nay.

“For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.” — Job 33:14

God just states His position. It is the so-called intellectualism, and wisdom, of men who think they know more than God, that causes men to do things contrary to the laws of God. Then, they wonder why society is in the mess that is in today.

I believe capital punishment is a subject that needs to be addressed. People are being so brainwashed by these liberal churches into this lovey-dovey stuff that you never hear the preacher preach on what God has to say about

capital punishment. So, we are going to find out what God has to say about it in His Word.

I will say this at the outset. We're going to see, as we go through the Bible, that the greatest executioner of capital punishment is none other than God, Himself.

We often hear sermons on the love of God. When is the last time your preacher preached an expository message on going to Hell if you die rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ? Eternal punishment for those who reject Christ is not a popular subject in the liberal churches of today. A subject that is almost as unpopular is the chastening of the Christian who refuses to obey the Lord. When has your pastor preached on that?

Well, there are pastors all over the United States of America, not only Baptist, but, independent, fundamental, pastors of churches that carry a name such as Community Church, Bible Church, or Church of the Open Door, and so forth, that teach the Bible. They do not have to be a Baptist Church at all. Many of them have turned to entertainment, instead of expository preaching.

What I'm saying is this. If those fundamental Bible-teaching preachers believe the Bible, you'll hear about capital punishment. They're just getting far and few between, anymore. In fact, if you teach the Bible, you are labeled a cult. I know in Walnut Grove, where we are, we are called a cult because we teach the Bible, and that salvation is by grace through faith, plus nothing.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9

Of course, the Bible uproots and, absolutely, exposes the false teaching about water baptism to go to heaven, and about infants being baptized. This is the teaching of the other churches here in Walnut Grove. The Bible completely

condemns the satanic, ecumenical, movement they advocate, spoken of in the Book of Revelation.

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: (1)

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (2)

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. (3)

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: (4)

And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

— Revelation 17:1-5

What the Book of Revelation is telling us here is that “Mystery, Babylon the Great...” represents the ecumenical “church,” and the world loves her so much that it will “beat a path to her door, even in the “wilderness.” The liberal, modernistic, churches of today are completely ecumenical. The churches in our town take turns worshipping with each other.

So, when you expose these things by simply teaching God’s Word, the Bible, you’re labeled a cult. Some of these people wouldn’t know what a cult is. In fact, they attend one, and they do not even know it. They’re totally ignorant of what the Word of God says, and that’s sad. I’m not saying that derogatorily. I am just stating the facts. It is sad when a person is in that condition, but, we’re in a time, during the last days, when people will not endure sound doctrine.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (3) And they shall turn

away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

— 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Yet, it's an amazing thing about capital punishment. The Bible tells us that it has been instituted by God, and it is the answer to many of society's problems. Yet, men “have turned their ears away from the truth,” and just don't want to hear it.

Why have we had the rise of crime? Why do we have so many, documented, cases of juveniles who, at twelve, thirteen, fourteen years of age, shoot, and kill their mother, or father? Why are some men so deranged that they walk into a public place, and just start shooting, and killing, everybody? Why is all of this happening?

Well, we're going to find the answer in the Bible, so let's continue.

The first thing we have to realize is who has the power of capital punishment over your life and mine? Turn in your Bibles with me, and let's begin to lay a foundation. Let's go to Psalm 22:29. In Verse 29, the Word of God says,

“All *they that be* fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust (that's the body) shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.”

Psalm 22:29 tells us that, when it is our time to die, even with the best of modern medicine, we may prolong life, but we cannot keep ourselves alive at will.

Now, with that in mind, let's look at some other verses. Let's go to the Book of Deuteronomy 32:39. Here is what the Lord says,

“See now that I, *even I, am* he, and *there is* no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither *is there any* that can deliver out of my hand.”

So God says, “He can heal, He can kill, and He can wound.” He can do that. You're going to find, as we go

through God's Word on the subject, God is the foremost executioner of capital punishment. You just don't hear it preached anymore. That part of the Bible your liberal preachers don't seem to want to touch on.

Now, let's go over to the Book of Ecclesiastes. You go right past Psalms, and Proverbs, and then you come to the Book of Ecclesiastes. If you'll notice over here in Ecclesiastes 8:8,

"There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

There is one more verse we'd like to lay, showing that the One who instituted death, and capital punishment, is none other than the One who has the power to create life. The One, who has the power to take life, and the power to create life, is God, Himself. Since the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifested in human flesh, He, also, has the power to take life.

In Revelation 1:18, the word of God teaches us that,

"I am he (the Lord Jesus Christ) that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and [I] have the keys of hell and of death."

Very interesting, isn't it? When you hear that God renders judgment, it may be a shock to some of you. If you go to a liberal Church, and you haven't heard anything but the love, love, love of God, it might be quite a jolt. You haven't heard the truth from the Bible that God is, also, a God of judgment. He does judge. It may shock you to see some of the actions that God takes credit for, and says, "I have killed this many people, purposely. I have killed them."

Let's go back to the Book of Genesis, Chapter 2, and Verse 9. We're going to start with Creation, go right on up to the Law, and, then, right on up through the Church Age.

A very easy way to get the overall picture is to divide your Bible following this basic outline.

- In Genesis, Chapter One to Genesis, Chapter 11, you have what is the United Race. Here, God is dealing with a United Race of people.
- Then, from Genesis, Chapter 12, clear on up through the Gospels, God is dealing with the nation of Israel.
- Then, from the Book of Acts on, you have Acts, the transition book, which takes us from God dealing with the nation of Israel to God dealing with the Church.
- From the Book of Acts on, then, you have God, basically now, dealing with the Church, clear up until Revelation, Chapter 4, after which the Church is seen in Heaven.
- In Revelation, Chapter 5 to Revelation 19:1 is the 7-Year Tribulation Period.
- Then from Revelation 19:1 to 20:10, the Lord Jesus Christ comes back and establishes the Kingdom. In Revelation 20:11-15, we have the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation, Chapters 21, and 22 are all about the wonders of the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Capital Punishment Withheld from Cain by God

We're going to start with capital punishment where it begins, clear back in the Book of Genesis, and we're going to find out something very interesting. We are going to find out why capital punishment was not instituted at the time of the first murder recorded in the Bible when Cain killed Abel?

First, let's go to Genesis 2:9 and 17. I know most of you are familiar with this, but we'll just recapitulate a second in Verse 9,

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

— Genesis 2:9

Then, come down to Verse 17 where God tells Adam,

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

— Genesis 2:17

Why did God put this restriction upon them? We must remember that Adam and Eve were created with a nature that no other person has ever had. All other people, since Adam and Eve, have been born with a corrupt nature. But, when they were created, Adam and Eve had a nature like no one else has ever had. They were created in innocence.

What is innocence? Innocence is sinlessness that has never faced trial. Righteousness is innocence that has been tested and found victorious.

Adam and Eve were created in innocence, and God was going to test them. Therefore, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was not given that title because it had any virtue in it to cause, or increase useful knowledge. That wasn't the purpose. If so, it would not have been forbidden.

But, because of God's will concerning this tree, man would come to know moral good, and evil. Therefore, we have to ask the question, what is good? Well, since it is always good to obey God, the good was not to eat of the tree. The evil was the eating of the tree. Disobedience brought physical death, as Adam experienced in Genesis 5:5, when he died.

“And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.”

This disobedience brought death upon the whole human race. Go with me now to the Book of Romans. In Romans 5:12 we find,

“Wherefore, as by one man (that’s Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Now, the interesting point is, death passed upon all men. That separated humanity from God.

Adam and Eve tried to sew fig leaves to cover their nakedness, and that represented their own self-righteousness. God rejected that. God made them coats of skins showing the blood had to be shed. This is a first mention principle that carries all the way through the Bible. You’re saved by the blood. You’re not saved by the water. You’re not saved by baptism, confession, communion, or confirmation. All of these are traditional things interjected to try to make you feel religious and get you connected with a church, but it doesn’t save you. So, we go on to Romans 5:12, and it says,

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Then we go on over here to Romans 3:23 which tells us,

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

The “glory of God” is His absolute righteousness.

All this was brought about by Adam’s disobedience. When we give birth, today, we’re born with the old sin nature. You never have to send babies to a training school to teach them how to pout, misbehave, or throw a temper tantrum. You do not have to enroll your children in a special class so they can learn how to lie to their mother and dad, or how to use mother against dad, and so forth. They just do it naturally. Have any of you parents ever sent your

child to a training school to teach them how to lie, cheat, and swear? Then, where did they get it? They were never taught that. It's the old nature, and, when they reach the age of accountability, they begin to put into practice the actions of the old nature.

Then we come over to Romans 6:23 where the word of God says,

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The “death” spoken of in Romans 6:23, of course, is Hell.

“Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure...”

— Isaiah 5:14 “

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.”

— Psalm 9:17

The Lord Jesus frequently spoke of spending eternity in a place called Hell. It's called, literally, in the Greek, “Hades.” In the Hebrew, it's called “Sheol.” In our English, it is translated “Hell.”

God has levied a sentence of capital punishment on all who reject the Lord Jesus Christ because we are born sinners. We do not become a sinner when we sin. We sin because we are born a sinner. Every human being born into this world has inherited the old sin nature of our first parents, and this is something that we need to recognize. So, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God put capital punishment on the whole human race. All any individual has to do is reject Christ, and they'll pay for their own sin in Hell.

It's that simple.

I'm getting off my subject here for just a second. Many people ask, “Well, how are you saved in the Old Testament?” In the Old Testament, everything that followed Genesis 3:15, pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old

Testament, everyone was saved by faith, just the same as they are saved by faith today. There was no difference in salvation.

There were no water baptisms for salvation, anywhere, in the Old Testament at all. None. There are none in the New Testament for salvation. It is a testimony after you're saved.

When you are immersed under the water, that is a testimony to the world that you believe Christ died on the Cross to pay for your sin (and the world's sin), and when you are raised out of the water, that is the testimony to the world that God has accepted Christ's payment for your (and the world's sin). It is simply a demonstration of what God says we must believe to have eternal life. Therefore, baptism is only for those who have already believed. That is why it is sometimes called "Believer's Baptism."

We are spiritually baptized into the Body of Christ, at the moment of belief. This is spiritual baptism, not water baptism.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

— 1 Corinthians 12:13

In Ephesians, Chapter 4, we find the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head, is also called the Church.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

— Ephesians 5:23

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

— Ephesians 5:30

"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

— Ephesians 5:32

A “mystery” in Scripture is not something hidden, but “a truth revealed at the proper time.” Here, the great Apostle Paul is telling us that the Spiritual Body of Christ, made up of all believers, and the Spiritual Church, are one and the same.

You're not baptized into the local, physical, church, or confirmed, or any of that sort of thing. No baptism, or confirmation, will ever give you eternal life. Your confirmation is believing the Word of God, and your faith in Jesus Christ is confirmed by the Word of God. There is no confirmation that a church gives out. They may give them out, but it doesn't mean anything. You're confirmed only by the Word of God. We bring those things out because they are so overshadowing what real Christianity is.

In the Old Testament, everything pointed forward to Jesus Christ, so in the Old Testament you were saved by faith in Christ that he was going to come, and die on the Cross, and pay for your sins. In the New Testament, we're looking back, approximately, two thousand years, plus a few years, to when Christ did die on the Cross. We're saved by grace through faith. The only difference between the Old Testament believers, and the New Testament believers is the fact that Old Testament believers were looking forward to Christ's coming, and we're looking back, believing that He did come. Each one has the element of faith, which is the only thing that gives you eternal life, and the promise of an eternity in Heaven.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

— Ephesians 2:8-9

So, the death penalty has been placed upon all humanity, and God is the Executioner, as well as the Lord Jesus Christ, as we are told in Revelation 1:18,

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

So, God is a God of capital punishment. As we've said, Adam was proof of it because, in Genesis 5:5, we find,

“And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.”

Since the Lord said, “The day that eatest of the fruit thereof, thou shalt surely die...”, they died spiritually, and they died, physically. They didn't die, physically, on that day, but physical death began to set into the body at that particular time.

Let's go, now, to the first murder in the Bible, perpetrated when Cain killed his brother, Abel. You say capital punishment is not taught in the Bible. Yes, it is. Let's find out, right here in the beginning of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, why God did not execute capital punishment upon Cain. So, we go to Genesis 4:4,

“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:”

— Genesis 4:4

Notice the first mention principle which God first gave clear back in Genesis, Chapter 3,

“And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
(6)

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

— Genesis 3:6,7

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

— Genesis 3:21

God had to take the skins of the innocent animals, and their blood had to be shed. Adam and Eve taught their sons about this. The proof is that Abel brought the firstlings of

the flock, and the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering. Why? The blood had to be shed. It was a faith offering. By faith, he "...offered a more excellent sacrifice" (Hebrews 11:4). The Book of Hebrews, also, tells us,

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

— Hebrews 9:22

Notice, in Genesis 4:3 that Cain did not bring a blood offering, but brought of the "fruit of the ground." Cain presented to God what he had done as the work of his hands.

"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD."

— Genesis 4:3

Notice, in Verse 5,

"But unto Cain and to his offering he (the LORD) had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

— Genesis 4:5

Cain represents your modernistic, liberal, churches of today. They teach that you're saved by something you do. In other words, you have to obey something, or do something. You're never saved that way. That never gives you eternal life. When we witness to people and invite them to our church, the conversation usually ends up with this question, "Do you know if you're going to Heaven when you die?" The answer usually is, "Well, I'm a member of so-and-so church. This is my church, and so forth."

Well, frankly, I'm really not interested in where you go to church, but, whether you know you're going to Heaven when you die. I have had people almost ready to swing when I ask them about that, and what that amounts to is this. When you ask them if they know they're going to Heaven, they want you to think they are a wonderful person. They want you to think they're a good church-going person. They've been water baptized, they're on the board, or they're in a position in town. They want to be looked upon with admiration and respect. How dare anyone ask

them, “Do you know you're going to Heaven when you die?” They're trusting in their self-righteousness because that's what their churches teach. You've got to do this, and you've got to do that. They believe you have to do *something to go to Heaven!*

My friend, to go to Heaven, you cannot do anything until you realize you're lost. Nothing you can do will ever merit eternal life. Nothing.

So, God rejected Cain's sacrifice, because it was not the right sacrifice. You have “Canaanites” all over in your modernistic dominations of today. They're coming and offering something. They want to make you a member of their denomination. Most of it is predicated upon water baptism. “Let's start with the infants. Let's get those infants!”

I believe the reason they hate Bible teaching is, nowhere does the Bible say infants are ever to be baptized. Nowhere. We say, “Go ask your pastor to show it to you in the Bible.” They can't do it, and it infuriates them! They shatter the air with their protests. “Who in the world is preaching this? They've gotta be a cult! They've gotta be a cult!” They are involved in a cult themselves because they won't take the Bible. They won't take what God's Word says.

No. Water baptism has nothing to do with you going to Heaven. Good works have nothing to do with you going to Heaven. You're going to Heaven because of a person, not because of something you, personally, want to do to merit eternal life. You're going to Heaven because God loved you while you were a sinner. The point is, your modernistic, liberal, churches have got you so brainwashed that you really believe there's a little speck of good in you, and you're not a sinner. Christ says, “I died for you while you were a sinner.”

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

— Romans 5:8

We go on down and find,

“But unto Cain and to his offering he (the LORD) had not respect. And Cain was very wroth (incensed and enraged), and his countenance fell.”

— Genesis 4:5

“And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?”

— Genesis 4:6

In other words, you had a pretty good show, old boy, until Abel's offering was accepted, and yours wasn't. Cain hated Abel because Abel's offering was accepted, and his offering was rejected. Cain did not bring the right offering, and God rejected it. Cain became consumed with murderous anger. He should have been angry with himself, as he was the one who had fouled up, but Cain's anger was directed towards Abel.

That's why fundamental Bible teachers, today, are hated by your liberal, and modernist, churches. They'll do anything to discredit you, or kill your testimony. They do it because, when you teach the Bible, it makes their teaching out to be a lie. How dare you question that such good people, as they are, do not have eternal life? They get as angry with those who teach God's Word as Cain was with Abel.

“And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.”

— Genesis 4:8

Well, it was not Abel, the Christian, who slew Cain, who was the religious but lost person. It was the religious, but lost Cain, who slew Abel, the Christian.

The scribes and Pharisees, in Christ's day, did the same thing. It was Christ who was the Savior. The scribes and Pharisees would be your liberal, and your modernist, seminary graduates of today, who stand behind the pulpit and put on a phony front. They'll teach you about water bap-

tism, but, not about faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, plus nothing, for eternal life.

Let me just point this out. People accuse fundamental, Bible-teaching, preachers of being a cult, in total ignorance. They don't even know what they are talking about. What is a cult religion? You can pick them out if they point you to themselves, and their denomination, instead of to the Lord Jesus Christ. I heard a pastor on the radio, here, just a few Sundays ago, and he quoted John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

— John 3:16

He came right back in the next breath and said, “In the name of Jesus; I will forgive your sins.” *I will forgive your sins!* That man's a false teacher. He was pointing people to himself. Wherever you find a church that points you to Jesus Christ, you have a true church. You have a church that loves the Lord. But, wherever you find a church that points you to the preacher saying, “I'll forgive your sins,” or to water baptism for your salvation, you've got a cult religion. Period! No, if, ands, or buts. Most people are totally blinded to that. You have the same case here with Cain and Abel.

We come to a very interesting point, here, because God did not render capital punishment upon Cain, immediately. We're going to find out why. Here's what God said.

“And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; (11)

When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.”

— Genesis 4:11,12

You know something? God can make all of our labor non-productive if He decides to. Come on down to Verse 13,

“And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. (13)

Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*”

— Genesis 4:13,14

Cain complains to God, “Everyone will hate me!” Oh, you poor boy! And, then God says this,

“And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.”

— Genesis 4:15

Whatever the mark was, I have no idea! But, I know this. People recognized that they had better not touch Cain! You have to remember. Cain committed First Degree Murder. Why did God not render capital punishment, as God is going to do later? God is going to put capital punishment on some things that you will not believe He would put it on! Capital punishment. Why didn't God do it here?

I believe the reason that God did not pronounce the sentence of capital punishment, here, is that humanity was just starting out. God had just created it. I believe God left off capital punishment, in this case, to show what would happen in years to come without it. He did it to show how wicked mankind would become.

Capital Punishment by the Flood

I believe this is evidenced by Genesis 6:5. Go over there with me, please. We're going to give this to give you something to do in your spare time. If you trace the genealogies from Adam to Noah, you'll find it comes out to 1,056 years. Then, you find out in Genesis 7:6, that Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters was upon the Earth. So, from the time of Creation up until the flood, you have 1656

years. In that length of time, the population of the Earth grew to hundreds of thousands of people.

Then, a very interesting thing happened. Without capital punishment, and because of the wickedness of man beginning with Cain, let me show you what took place. You'd have to be blind to not see the parallel to what is happening in America today when you don't have capital punishment for crimes.

Look over in Genesis 6:5,

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. (5) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”

Because of the wickedness of man, beginning with Cain, and not having capital punishment, it is evident that God has pulled back the curtain to show us what can happen in 1656 years when the wickedness of man goes unchecked. He said the things recorded back here were for our learning and our admonition.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: *and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*”

— 1 Corinthians 10:11

Because there was no capital punishment for the murderer to stem the tide of wickedness, God had to render capital punishment, Himself. Therefore, He sent the worldwide flood and destroyed all humanity, with the exception of eight righteous people: Noah, and his family.

Follow with me to Genesis 7:21 to 23,

“And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: (21)

All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of life, of all that *was* in the dry *land*, died. (22)

And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained *alive*, and they that *were* with him in the ark.” (23)

With no capital punishment, men just went right on sinning and murdering. If you continue to read in Genesis, Chapter Four, murder is again committed. Lamech committed murder, and it just went right on until there was just killing, after killing.

“And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. (23)

If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.”

— Genesis 4:23-24

With no capital punishment, and with no restraint of crime, whatsoever, God will execute capital punishment, Himself. Therefore, he executed capital punishment when he destroyed every human being off of the face of the Earth, at the time of the flood, with the exception of Noah’s family.

Now, God is going to start over, and this time He's going to institute capital punishment. After letting mankind go for 1656 years, and having to destroy all humanity with the flood, God will now institute capital punishment. He killed every human being on the earth at that time because without capital punishment “the thoughts and their minds were found to be evil continually.” You're going to find when there are no restraints on society, society goes to pieces. There are always those who will take advantage of others.

“Where *there is* no vision (no word from the LORD), the people perish (cast off restraints, or literally “go to pieces.”): but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.”

— Proverbs 29:18

After the flood, in Genesis 9:6, we find the first institution of capital punishment. God had given 1656 years with no capital punishment, and the world was in such a mess that God destroyed all humanity and executed capital punishment, Himself. Then, He instituted capital punishment to keep this from ever happening again.

If mankind would only listen to God. In Genesis 9:6, the Lord says this,

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

— Genesis 9:6

Anyone living today is under the condemnation of God. That is you and I, both, and there's only one escape route. We have all sinned, I don't care what your position is. Even though you might be a dignitary, you might be the governor, you might be the mayor, or you might be the president of the United States, we are all sinners.

In Heaven, there is no sin.

God has concluded that we have all sinned, and come short of the glory of God. The “glory of God” is His absolute righteousness. You must be absolutely righteous to go to Heaven, but Romans 3:23 condemns us.

” For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

— Romans 3:23

So, God says capital punishment has been instituted upon all humanity, now. You will die, and spend eternity in Hell. You only have one way out.

God says, “I will send my Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will go to the Hell of the Cross, and pay your sin penalty for you so that you don't have to do it yourself. Therefore,

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

— John 3:36

Thus,

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

— John 3:16

I hope you will “believe in Christ.” Also, I hope you follow along as we continue in our messages on capital punishment. If you have never trusted Christ, I hope you do it today.

We’d like to take a moment to invite you to our church services on Sunday morning here in Walnut Grove. Our Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 10:00 and goes to 11:00. We would love to have you come.

If you have listened to the broadcast for some length of time and have never taken time to write us, we hope that you will. We don't know you listen to us unless you write and let us know. We are grateful for the letters we receive. We’d like for you to do that if you'd be kind enough.

Our mailing address is Heritage Radio Bible Class, P.O. Box 573, Walnut Grove, MN. Our zip code is 56180. Until next week at the same time, May the Lord richly bless you, as we ever pray, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

The Case For Capital Punishment

Part 2

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
— Romans 5:8

Thank you! It is so good to have you join us at the same time each week. We count it our privilege to have you as our radio listener. We do hope you have your Bibles out as you follow along.

We are now continuing in our Bible study concerning capital punishment, and this is the second lesson on that. As you recall from our Bible lesson last week, God had instituted capital punishment upon the whole human race. You listening, and I, myself, are under the condemnation of God.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

— Romans 6:23

God has never remitted the physical consequences of sin, but He has remitted the eternal consequences of sin. God put man to a test in the garden, and he said, “Do not eat of this tree.” Man disobeyed. It separated Him from God. He said, “The day that thou shalt eat of this fruit, thou shalt surely die.” Physical death set in upon Adam and Eve at that very time.

Then, the first murder came along with Cain and Abel. Cain killed Abel. God did not institute the death penalty, immediately, to show all mankind what society would be like without the death penalty, or without capital punishment.

That went on until the flood, for 1656 years, and men's minds became evil continually. Their thoughts and intents became evil continually. God had to send the flood, and destroy all humanity, the whole human race, with the exception of eight people, to start it over.

This time, God was going to do it His way, and show that capital punishment is the most effective deterrent to crime that you can institute. Even Satan knows that men love their lives, and they will do anything to save their hide. Just consider what he had the audacity to tell Almighty God in Job 2:4,5,

“And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. (4)
But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.”

— Job 2:4-5

In Genesis 9:6, we have the first institution of capital punishment. I would like for you to read this in your Bible,

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

— Genesis 9:6

If a person takes another man's life by killing him, that is the meaning of “by man;” God is going to relegate the responsibility for punishing, by death, the perpetrator who commits First Degree Murder, to men he has given this authority. We're going to see, as we go on, that God, Himself, is the foremost executioner of capital punishment.

Because of sin, God has put a sentence of capital punishment upon the whole human race.

“We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God”

— Romans 3:23

That's why everyone dies, and that's why you cannot take these bodies to Heaven. We have capital punishment upon the whole human race. We find that God has never remitted the physical consequences of sin, but He has re-

mitted the spiritual consequences of sin, and that is spending eternity with God in Heaven, which he created mankind to do. He, therefore, sent Jesus Christ to make the payment for our sins, so that we can have eternal life, and live with him for all time and eternity.

After capital punishment is instituted in Genesis 9:6, keep this in mind. This is part of the unconditional Covenant which God made with Noah, that runs clear on down through time, through the Law, through dealing with the nation of Israel, into the Church Age, and right on down. This principle, “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.” (Genesis 9:6) was instituted as part of the unconditional Noahic Covenant. God established this covenant before Moses was even born, or the Law was given. The Law only amplified upon it when God gave specific penalties for specific crimes which included the death penalty.

When Christ came, He did away with the Law, but he never did away with Genesis 9:6, and the death penalty for the murderer. When the scribes, and Pharisees, criticized his disciples because they did not wash their hands before they ate, Christ said this about capital punishment in Matthew 15:4,

“But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? (3)

For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.”

— Matthew 15:3-4

Christ was actually quoting a Law given in Exodus 21:17. If you broke this Law, the penalty was death, or capital punishment.

“And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.”

— Exodus 21:17

Evidently, the scribes and Pharisees had, by their tradition, lightened up on this one! Today, in the age of Grace, rebellious children do not have to worry about “capital punishment,” nor do they have to worry about “corporeal punishment. “Corporal punishment” is defined as “Physical punishment inflicted upon the body, such as spanking or imprisonment.” In fact, undisciplined children are another developing problem in society. But, that is another subject.

Capital Punishment on Sodom & Gomorrah

Let us continue our examination of some of the things that God has, Himself, instituted the death penalty on. I would like for you to go, now, over to Genesis, Chapter 19, to Sodom and Gomorrah. “Sodom” is where we get our word, “sodomite.” These are your homosexuals. These are your perverts of today. They were existing clear back there thousands of years ago, so there's nothing new in society today.

God had gotten so fed up with these cities of Sodom, and Gomorrah, and since Abraham’s nephew, Lot, had decided to live there, He paid a visit to Abraham as he sat in the door of his tent.

“And the LORD appeared unto him (Abraham) in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;”
— Genesis 18:1

During the conversation, God informed Abraham and Sarah, that even though they were getting past the age of childbearing, Sarah would bear a child. Then, as the two angels were headed toward Sodom, God said to Abraham,

“And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; (20)
I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. (21)
And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.”

— Genesis 18:20-22

There were actually three other cities on the plains. One was Admah, one was Zeboiim, and the other was Zoar. These are found in Genesis 14:2,

“That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.”

— Genesis 14:2

God destroyed all, but one, of these cities because of their wickedness. He did not destroy Zoar as Lot asked to go there (Genesis 19:18-22).

Abraham tried to intercede for the cities, and had even said to God,

“Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?”

— Genesis 18:24

And he went on down. There were thousands of people in these cities. Abraham said, “Well, if you find forty... Well, surely if you can find forty, will you spare the city?” “Well,” God said, “I surely will.”

“And he (Abraham) spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he (God) said, I will not do it for forty's sake.”

— Genesis 18:29

It got down to where Abraham asked God for ten.

“And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.”

— Genesis 18:32

There were not even ten righteous in the city. You know, the Bible is so true, and the majority of religions are so wrong.

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find (perceive) it.”

— Matthew 7:14

When you put all the so-called religious institutions together, and you melt them right down in the melting pot and examine them by the word of God, there are very few people in those religious institutions that have accepted Jesus Christ. There are many, many, so-called, Christians who are never going to make it to Heaven because they're not Christians. They're counterfeit. The sad fact is, they really believe they are on their way to Heaven.

However, there's only one way to Heaven, and that is through Jesus Christ as He states, Himself.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

— John 14:6

The way to Heaven is not through the Baptist Church, or the Catholic Church, which claims to be the only true church. What a farce that is! If anyone has enough sense to even check church history, you'll find that's a farce. Then, you have Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Lutherans trying to get you there with their baptism. Then, you have all kinds of conglomerations, the New Age movement, and all these things. Yet Jesus Christ said,

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

— John 14:6

Of all the thousands of people in Sodom and Gomorrah, God could not even find ten that were saved. God said, “I've had enough with their homosexuality; I've had enough with their perverted ideologies!” We pick it up here in Genesis 19:24, 25. Who executed capital punishment? God, Himself.

“Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; (24)

And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”

— Genesis 19:24-25

Again, who executed this capital punishment? None other than God, Himself. Keep that in mind.

Now, let's examine something else. Let's go to Exodus, Chapter 11. Let's see God's work here as far as executing capital punishment. We have these liberals today, and these socialites, and these psychiatrists, raving about this "cruel punishment" for these murderers. We have become so sympathetic for the offender, instead of the victim, that, truthfully, we have people out there that are shooting policemen.

Now, if anybody is going to die, I want the crook to die, not the policeman. I just want to say this. If you want to curb all of this violence, so you can visit one of the big cities, whether it's Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Cleveland, or Miami, wherever it might be, we have to punish people for murder. All of these cities are saturated with murders. All you have to do is start executing the murderer, and you're going to find out that it's the biggest deterrent to the crime of murder you've ever seen.

Years ago, when I spent a number of years on the police department, I had taken a lieutenant's exam and some other exams. I went to the library and got the ARCO books of all the police exams that have ever been given. In them, I found something very interesting. They always had one question on every exam I've ever taken. It is, "What is the biggest deterrent to crime?" Do you know what the answer was, out of a multiple choice? The answer was "Swift and sure punishment." That's what we're getting away from today. By the time we file appeals, and we do this, and we do that, it goes on for years, and we spend thousands of dollars on just one murderer.

And, yet God says in Ecclesiastes 8:11,

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

It just gives momentum to the crook when he can go through the court system, and see these attorneys sit in court, and play around. Is this going to be admitted? Is that going to be admitted? We can't use DNA in this state, but we can in that state. Well, fingerprints, fine. We can use them. All of the evidence that would convict the criminal is suspect. Whether we can use it, or not, is determined by the judge.

Let me just go on, and say something else. If you want to curb crime, so the innocent can walk down the streets at night, and the guilty run and hide, instead of it being reversed, just simply do this.

Anybody caught carrying a gun in a crime, regardless of whether they use it or not. If they got it, they wouldn't carry it if they didn't have in their mind they're going to use it to keep from getting caught or to get what they want. Any person caught with a gun, in possession, while committing a crime, sentence them to five years behind bars, no plea bargaining, no judges bought off, no leniency, no probation officer, and no pre-sentence investigation. Give them five years behind bars, and don't trust the judge to do it! Put it in the law that he has to do it, and carry out the letter of the law. I'll tell you one thing. You're going to find guns are going to become thrown into oblivion.

But instead of that, our laws are screwed up and twisted around under the Brady Law, and some of these other things. Society thinks, if they pass all these restrictions on guns, they're going to take them out of the criminal's hands. You, Idiots, don't realize that criminals can always get guns! There are thousands, and millions, of guns available to them. If you expect a criminal to honor a 10-day waiting period or a five-day waiting period, you need to get out of your office with all your fine woodwork, and spend a few months on the street with the criminals, and find out what's going on. You'd throw your ideologies in the wastepaper can. You might find out what living is like on the

streets. The criminal can get a gun anytime. The NRA is fighting so innocent people, like yourself, can keep their right to bear arms, so you can protect your home and your life against these criminals that have guns.

How you curb crime is “swift and sure punishment.” If you have a criminal record and are caught with a gun in your possession, I don't care if you're robbing a store for a candy bar, you go five years behind bars, no buying your way out, no fancy attorney, no plea bargaining, no nothing. I'll tell you what, folks, you're going to find that crime is going to take an astronomical drop, just as fast as its astronomical rise.

We are so brainwashed into feeling sorry for this poor murderer, now, because his daddy didn't spank him back there. Or, maybe his dad spanked him too many times! And, then, we get the psychiatrist, and the psychologist, involved. And, then, we bring in the probation officer, and he's going to do his pre-sentence investigation. Pretty soon, it's not a matter of being guilty, or not guilty. It's a matter of what state of mind was this person in when they did this. And the fact of whether they are guilty, or innocent, is thrown into oblivion, and we're going into the psychological aspect of this person's makeup, and all this sort of thing. Consequently, the murderer does not receive capital punishment.

Let us see how God punishes crime. Is God for capital punishment? He surely is. In fact, God is very clear on what He thinks about capital punishment. Prior to the giving of the Law, even though there were no specific laws against it, and a man committed murder, was he held guilty? Yes, he was.

Romans 2:15,16 will give us our answer. God created you with a conscience to know right and wrong, good and evil. God created you that way. This is part of your makeup.

“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) (15) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel. — Romans 2:15-16

Note: If what we are thinking of, or planning on doing, is wrong, Romans 2:15 says our conscience will “accuse” that thought. “Accuse” is translated from the Greek word, “katēgoreō,” and means “to *charge* with some offense.” If what we are thinking, or planning, is right, our conscience will “excuse” us. “Excuse” is translated from the Greek word, “apologeomai,” and means “to defend,” as before a tribunal, or court.”

So, the conscience God created us with sits as a judge on all our thoughts and actions and lets us know right from wrong. When it says there is coming a “day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, it means we are going to be held accountable for the decisions we make. We often say, “Our conscience will tell us to do right, but, it will not always tell us what is right.”

My friend, when we have laws, our conscience should tell us to obey them. Today, when men make decisions, usually, the last thing they think about is, “What does God want me to do?” They have “departed from the faith,” and “their consciences are seared” with the hot iron of infidelity.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (1) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”

— 1 Timothy 4:1-2

I just want to say this. I get so sick of hearing, “We are going to plead insanity,” or, “We are going to plead that he didn’t know what he was doing when he committed the crime.” If he didn’t know what he was doing was wrong, why did he run? What is he running from? He must know it’s wrong, or he wouldn’t run. That makes sense to me, but

that's using common sense, though. For Heaven's sakes, don't use that today! Use some idiotic idea, but don't use common sense! Don't use your brain! Let's throw some psychology into it, and get it all screwed up.

And, then, if we throw this guy behind bars, let's give him "shock probation." The only ones who get shocked are the innocent people in society when these nuts on the parole boards let them out after they're convicted of violent crimes. They shove the "shock" on us, as a society, and we have to live with these criminals running loose.

I wonder. If the judge's wife, or children, were raped, or killed, by one of these mass murderers, or one of these rapists, would he take the same view as he takes now?

What about the parole boards? If some of these men and women who sit on them, and let these criminals back out into society, and their spouses, or children, were molested or killed, would they take the same view as they are taking now? I am not saying I want that to happen, but, if it did, it would shake some sense into the consciences that God gave them. Perhaps, then, they would realize they should execute capital punishment, and put these violent murderers to death, and rid society of them. That's what God wants.

The Bible says in Romans 13:1-5, that capital punishment is the responsibility of the courts. The courts don't realize this, however, unless that judge is a Christian.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." — Romans 13:1

God has ordained courts, and judges and a system to execute punishment on the offender so that you can live in a society where you can walk down the street at three o'clock in the morning, and let the criminal run. Instead, we have perverted our laws. We have perverted our judgment. We've gotten so smart that we eliminate what God

says to do, and truly “the wisdom of man has become foolishness with God (1 Corinthians 3:19).”

Let's go on down,

“Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation (condemnation).”

— Romans 13:2

Our courts are really ordained of God,

However, “...they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation...,” *does not* mean that resisting the law damns you to Hell. It *does* mean you will receive condemnation for breaking the law. In today's courts, that is not a sure thing. Often, the judges just slap the offender's hands, and they go out to commit more crime. The word “damnation” is from the Greek word “krima,” and simply means “condemnation.” You will be condemned for your crime.

“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: (3) For he is the minister of God to thee for good.”

— Romans 13:3-4a

Even though the judges don't realize they are “ministers of God,” they are. Thank God for the courts.

“But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

— Romans 13:2

In these verses, God tells us that these are the powers that He has ordained...

- They do not “bear the sword in vain,” or “without a cause.” They bear the sword for a reason, and that is capital punishment. This law the great Apostle Paul, the inspired penman of the Book of Romans, knew well. He was beheaded in Rome.
- The word “revenger” is translated from the Greek words, “ek” and “dike” and means “carrying *justice*

out, i.e. a *punisher* :- a (re-) venger.”

- The word “wrath” comes from the Greek word, “*orgē*,” and means “by implication *punishment* :- anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.”

We thank God for the laws, the policeman, and the courts, without which society would absolutely be in shambles. As we have seen, they are ordained of God. Judges, law enforcement, and court officials, are “minister[s] of God to thee.” They are a “revenger.” They are “minister[s] of God, “and “revenger[s] to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

“Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath (punishment’s sake), but also for conscience sake.”

— Romans 13:5

As I have said, previously, judges are “minister[s] of God,” and God ordains capital punishment. It is God’s will that we obey the law because He has given judges, and courts, the right to render all sentences, including capital punishment.

Capital Punishment on Egypt Twice

Now, let’s go on to the Book of Exodus. Israel had been in bondage 430 years, according to Exodus 12:41. They were treated evil 400 years. The first 30 years, they were not.

“And God spake on this wise. That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.”

— Acts 7:6

Now, they were going to be liberated. God said, “Moses go in to Pharaoh, and tell him to let my people go.” Well, Moses did that, and Pharaoh said, “Heck with you, old boy! I’m not letting anybody go. I’m going to make them work even harder than they did before.” God was going to put

Pharaoh through a “softening up” process by sending ten plagues on Egypt. These ten plagues were:

1. *God turned the Nile River into blood.*
Pharaoh’s Answer: “And Pharaoh turned and went into his house,...” (Exodus 7:23-25)
2. *God filled the land with frogs.*
Pharaoh’s Answer: “Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD. (Exodus 8:8) But Pharaoh did not keep his word.
3. *God sent lice on all the Egyptians, but not on the nation of Israel in Goshen.*
Pharaoh’s Answer: “Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them;...” (Exodus 8:19). Pharaoh, again, went back on his word. He did not listen to his magicians, Moses, or God.
4. *God sent flies that swarmed all over the people.*
Pharaoh’s Answer: “You can sacrifice to your God in Egypt” (8:25). Not acceptable to God. Well, you can sacrifice in the wilderness, only not very far away.” (8:28) Just pray to your God to get rid of the lice. When the lice were gone, Pharaoh went back on his word again. “And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go” (8:32).
5. *God sent a murrain on all the Egyptian’s cattle, oxen, horses, and sheep. All the Egyptian’s animals died wherever they were.*
Pharaoh’s Answer: No! (He could have thought, “The Israelites still have plenty of cattle. We’ll take

theirs.” But, you can’t outsmart God.) (Exodus 9:7).

Well, that’s five down, but, little did Pharaoh know, there are five more plagues to go. God knows how to make the unwilling become willing!

6. *God sent boils on the Egyptians and their animals.* The boils were so bad, the magicians could not even stand up to go in to advise Pharaoh. He would not have listened anyway. (Exodus 9:11)

Pharaoh’s Answer: No! (Exodus 9:12)

As the plagues increase, they get worse in their intensity and damage. The next one even makes believers out some of the Egyptians. They brought their cattle out of the field and sought shelter from the next plague, themselves.

Pharaoh has no excuse. He should have realized, by this time, the God of Moses was much more powerful than any Egyptian god he had been bowing down to. We would have to say, “This is one proud Pharaoh.” Not too smart, but very proud!

7. *God sends thunder and hail, mixed with fire...* “...such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now.” (9:18)

“And the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. (9:23).

And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. (9:25)

“...where the children of Israel *were*, was there no hail. (9:26).

Pharaoh’s Answer: “I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people *are* wicked.” (An act worthy of an Oscar!)

But, Moses, who had been raised in a Pharaoh's palace, knew this score. This was just another one of Pharaoh's tricks. He knew Pharaohs were considered to be gods, themselves, and gods never sin. At least, that's what the Pharaohs wanted the Egyptian people to believe.

Moses told Pharaoh, "As soon as I get out of town, and God removes the plague, the answer will be 'No,' again." And, so it was. (Exodus 9:29-33)

To make a long story short, we will do just that and only list the next two plagues. We, already, know what Pharaoh's answer will be. A resounding "No!"

Before each plague was announced, God had told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say, "Let my people go..." Ten times Pharaoh had the opportunity to believe what Moses said about God, but each time Pharaoh "hardened his (own) heart" and refused to let the people go. By this time, even the Egyptians were beginning to grumble and complain.

"And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?" — Exodus 10:7

8. *God sent so many locusts that the sky looked black.*

"For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened: and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt."

— Exodus 10:15

9. *God sent darkness that could be felt for 3 days.*

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness *which* may be felt.(22) And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

— Exodus 10:21-22

10. *God sends judgment in the death of the firstborn.*

The Tenth Plague was going to strike at the very throne of the Pharaoh. God was going to take the firstborn, and Pharaoh would have no successor.

Go to Exodus 12:29, and we're just going to get the conclusion of this.

“And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that *was* in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.”

— Exodus 12:29

All the firstborn children in Egypt died. Even Pharaoh lost his eldest son. Who did this? It was God. He executed capital punishment, Himself, against the firstborn. But, before you get angry at God, remember this. All the children that died, *before* the age of accountability, were taken to be with the Lord in Paradise. If they had been raised by their Egyptian parents, it is most likely they would have grown up worshipping the same idols their parents did. After they died, they would have spent eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Those Egyptian children that were *over* the age of accountability had the same opportunity to see that the God who was bringing the plagues was real, and much more powerful than their Egyptian gods. Some of the Egyptians began to believe God, and many Egyptians came out of Egypt with Israel. However, they were a “mixed multitude,” meaning believers, and non-believers. They were not always a blessing to Israel.

None of the nation of Israel’s firstborn died. Let’s just bring out that first mention principle again. Remember?

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

We find that in Hebrews 9:22. Once again, the innocent dies for the guilty. Here, it is a little lamb that is sacri-

ficed, looking forward to the sinless Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who will one day die on the Cross for the world. “

“The next day John (the Baptist) seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” — John 1:29

In the Garden of Eden, the sacrifice was for the individual, Adam and Eve. Each one had to be clothed with the skin of an innocent animal. Ater the Law came, on the Day of Atonement, the lamb would be for the nation of Israel. Here, the lamb is for the whole house.

“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: (5)

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. (6)

And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.(7)

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. (8)

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast *with* fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. (9)

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.(10)

And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S passover. (11)

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. (12)

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

— Exodus 12:5-13

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you...” So, when the death angel passed over the land of Egypt, at midnight, none of Israel’s firstborn children died.

God, Himself, had executed capital punishment. All the firstborn died in the land of Egypt, and not only that. With the blood on the doorposts, and lintels, the death angel passed over Israel. After that, God took the Israelites down to a place right at the point of the Red Sea. He took them to a dead-end street, purposely, so he could show them what he was going to do.

Do you know what happened? After the ten plagues and the death of his firstborn son, that Pharaoh hardened his heart again!

“And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? (5)

And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: (6)

And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. (7)

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel:...”

— Exodus 14:5-8

And, when all the Israelites looked up and saw Egypt’s army behind them, and the Red Sea in front of them, they did what they usually did. They turned on Moses and Aaron.

“Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For *it had been* better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.”

— Exodus 14:12

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. (13) The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

— Exodus 14:13-14

“The LORD shall fight for you.” Well, Israel had nothing to worry about. God protected Israel against the army of Egypt with His pillar of fire all through that night. In the morning, Israel walked through the Red Sea, on dry ground, with a wall of water on each side. Pharaoh’s army decided to go in after them.

By this time, I believe God has about had it with this Pharaoh. An amazing thing happened. All the wheels fell off their chariots (Exodus 14:25). They were stuck with the poor horses trying to pull the chariots on the axles, and could not go anywhere. Then, God closed the Red Sea and killed every one of them. God, Himself, executed capital punishment on all of the Egyptians. God killed them all, including Pharaoh.

If some of you are in a leadership position, such as a judge, the law may prescribe capital punishment for a case before you. Here, God had to execute capital punishment against a whole nation to free Israel from the bondage they had been in for 400 years.

I might say this. I get so sick of seeing this because I'm for the policeman. Sometimes policemen have to exercise deadly force, and the people they shoot, die. The most dangerous job anyone has today is to be a policeman. The search and seizure laws, rules of engagement, and everything else have tied his hands behind his back. But, we take this criminal, and we're going to protect everything from his toe nails to every hair on his head. It doesn't matter if he's guilty, or not.

I'll just say this. I get disgusted whenever I've been watching the reality shows, Cops, or the Highway Patrol, and I see some of these reenactments as they truly happen. It makes me sick when I see these policemen are afraid to shoot at a felon, and that felon is raising his gun up, and the policeman is still standing there, like some dummy, saying, “Drop your gun, Sir! Drop your gun! Drop your

gun!” If you tell that man to drop his gun once, and he starts to raise that gun, you ought to blow him away! Period! And we’d have a lot fewer policemen get killed. What a joke!

And I don't think policemen ought to be suspended because they shoot, and kill, somebody in the line of duty. Why are we going to suspend him? What did he do wrong? Go ahead and have your hearing, and let the policeman stay on the job. He didn't do anything wrong. He did what he was supposed to do, but, no, we're going to have a hearing to see if he did.

Well, if you have a hearing, and find him in the wrong, then fire him, but, until then, why should he be suspended? This is the kind of thinking we’re coming out with. No. We're going to punish the policeman. We're going to do this against the policeman, instead of thinking about what the criminal has done against society.

I just want to say that my heart goes out to policemen, especially, in small towns. They are out there, alone, where it's very hard to get a backup, and sometimes you have boards, and town councils, with small town thinking. These policemen ought to be paid, and they ought to be paid well.

If he is out there, and he stops somebody for a violation on the main route coming through town, that policeman could get himself killed so easy it’d make your head swim! He really could. Where are you going to get a backup? Oh, yes, you can call the number, and give your emergency into the sheriff’s department, but, unless they are in the vicinity, they can not get there in time.

When you're one-on-one out there, and you’re walking up to a car, you’re at a great disadvantage. That guy can be sitting in there with a gun. I've had that happen when I was on the police department and was very lucky a few times that I didn't get myself killed. But thank God for capital punishment in the state of Ohio. That saved my life, and it

surely did. I thank God for that! I thank God for the state of Ohio. When I was on the department, we had capital punishment in the state of Ohio, and it was by the electric chair. Later on, I'll relate to you one instance where the electric chair saved my life.

Capital Punishment in Ohio: 1885 to the Present (1)

“In 1885, the legislature (of Ohio) enacted a law that required executions to be carried out at the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus by hanging, and the law handed the executioner's job to the penitentiary's warden. ... In 1897 the gallows were replaced by electrocution, which was considered to be a more technologically advanced, and humane, method of execution. Ohio, also, became the second state to use the electric chair. 28 hangings, and 315 electrocutions, were carried out at the now defunct Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus from 1885 to 1963. ...

In November 2009, Ohio announced that it would only use a single drug for lethal injections, consisting of a single dose of sodium thiopental, the first state to do so. ...

Ohio announced in January 2011 that it will change the drug used from sodium thiopental to pentobarbital, as the availability of sodium thiopental has become quite scarce.

...

On July 1, 2011, Lundbeck, the Danish pharmaceutical company that holds the sole license to manufacture pentobarbital in the United States, announced that its distributors would deny distribution of pentobarbital to U.S. prisons that carry out the death penalty by lethal injection. Ohio used up its supply of pentobarbital on September 25, 2013. ...

On January 16, 2014, Ohio executed a man who was convicted of raping and then murdering a 22-year-old woman who was 30 weeks (8 months) pregnant.

[Author's Comment: This is an offense that God, Himself, put the death penalty on. [Exodus 21:22,23]

He became the first U.S. inmate to be executed with a combination of the drugs midazolam, and hydromorphone. It took 25 minutes for this man to die, ...

[Author's Comment: Compare 25 minutes to die by drugs to the length of time it takes to die in the electric chair.]

Source:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Ohio - Last edit, 30 June 2017, at 19:26.

Now, let's get the facts as to why this man got the death penalty in the first place. There are no names in the following article out of respect for the victim's family.

Who's the Victim?

<https://bureaucracybuster.com/2014/02/04/whos-the-victim/>

[A young expectant mother], 22, was nearly eight months pregnant when she encountered [a certain man] in Preble County, Ohio, while visiting a friend. [He] wanted to have sex with her but [she] refused. So he raped and sodomized her. ... With a knife.

Not surprisingly [she] became hysterical. And this made him fear that he would go to jail for raping a pregnant woman.

So he choked her. Then he stabbed her with the same knife he had used to anally rape her.

Finally, he severed her carotid artery and jugular vein. He wiped the blood off his hands on her right arm and dumped her in a wooded area where she was found the next day by hikers.

The date was February 11, 1989.

When questioned by police, [he] blamed [her] kidnapping and murder on his brother-in-law. But the ac-

cusation didn't hold up—and DNA evidence clearly implicated [the accused].

[He] was convicted of kidnapping, anal rape and aggravated murder on December 8, 1994. But even while facing a grim future, [he] managed to postpone his fate as his victim could not.

First, his attorneys appealed his conviction to the Ohio Supreme Court on June 10, 1997. To the dismay of him and his mouthpieces, the court upheld the verdict on December 10, 1997.

By this time, [he] had already outlived his ravished victim by EIGHT YEARS.

Second, his attorneys appealed to the United States Court of Appeals, for the Sixth Circuit. During this appeal, as in the first, [his] attorneys didn't argue their client was innocent.

They simply claimed that a jury never got to hear the full details of HIS CHAOTIC AND ABUSIVE CHILDHOOD.

As if that had been so much more horrific than the details of [her] rape and murder.

The case was argued on December 16, 2013, and decided on December 30. The court upheld the death penalty verdict.

By that time, [he, the convicted murderer] had outlived [the victim] by 24 years.

But [his] lawyers weren't through.

Third, they asked Ohio Governor John Kasich to spare [him], again CITING HIS CHAOTIC AND ABUSIVE CHILDHOOD.

Kasich rejected that request without comment.

Fourth, on January 6-7, 2014, [his] lawyers argued

in Federal appeals court that Ohio's untried two-drug execution method would cause their client "agony and terror" as he struggled to breathe. (Comment: How much "agony and terror" do you think that 22-year-old, expectant mother felt?)

Supplies of Ohio's former execution drug, pentobarbital, had dried up as its manufacturer put it off limits for executions.

Ohio's Department of Rehabilitation and Correction planned to use a dose of midazolam, a sedative, combined with hydromorphone, a painkiller, to put [him] to death.

That appeal proved unsuccessful.

Finally, on January 16, 2014, [the convicted murderer] kept his long-delayed date with the executioner in a small, windowless room at the Lucasville Correctional facility.

Strapped to a gurney, [he] gasped, snorted and snored as it took him 26 minutes to die.

"I'm going to heaven," were his last words.

His surviving family members, of course, feel that a travesty of justice has occurred.

On January 25, they filed a lawsuit in Federal court, claiming that [his] execution was "unconstitutional."

According to the lawsuit, [he] suffered "repeated cycles of snorting, gurgling and arching his back, appearing to writhe in pain. It looked and sounded as though he was suffocating."

The [murderer's] family wants to ensure that such an execution never happens again.

During the execution, his adult children sobbed in dismay.

FOR HIM.

Not his ravaged and INNOCENT VICTIM.

The old saying, “Justice delayed is justice denied” remains as true—and relevant—as ever.

In order to be effective, punishment must be CERTAIN AND SWIFT. To repeatedly postpone it—literally for decades after the perpetrator has been convicted—is to inflict further agony on the victim.

Or, in this case, the surviving family and friends of the murdered victim.

And it sends an unmistakable message to those thinking of victimizing others: “Hey, he got to live another 25 years. Maybe *I* can beat the rap.” [**And murder, also**]

Opponents of capital punishment have long argued that the death penalty is *not* a deterrent to crime.

[*Author’s Comment*: They have diseased their minds into becoming idiots. Even the accused will offer a guilty plea in exchange for a life sentence, instead of the death penalty.]

In fact, it is.

Having finally had sentence carried out on him, [the murderer] will never again threaten the life of anyone.

Prisons scheduled for executions are now facing a chronic shortage of the drugs used to carry out such sentence. The reason: Many drug-makers refuse to make them available for executions.

This has caused some states to reconsider using execution methods that were scrapped in favor of lethal injection.

Methods like:

...hanging
...the gas chamber
...the electric chair
...even the firing squad.

In line with this debate should be another: Whether the lives of cold-blooded murderers are truly worth more than those of their innocent VICTIMS.

And whether those VICTIMS—and those who loved them—deserve a better break than they now receive under our legal system.” (End of Article.)

Capital Punishment in Ohio: 1885 to the Present (2)

In January 2015, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction announced that all executions scheduled for the remainder of that year would be postponed due to the lack of availability of required drugs.

In October 2015, the department further announced that Governor John Kasich had granted additional reprieves to all inmates due to be executed in 2016 for the same reason. (Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment_in_Ohio - Last edit, 30 June 2017, at 19:26.)

Well, that is the situation regarding death penalty cases and capital punishment in the State of Ohio. It appears that, until they can obtain the “required drugs,” violent criminals, such as the one in the last article, are free to rape, maim, kidnap, and murder, without fear of the death penalty in the State of Ohio. And, law enforcement officers will continue to have a target on their back.

Let me just ask, “Who do you think paid for a criminal trial and four appeals? You, the taxpayer, paid for that, plus coddling that merciless murderer in prison, with the best of

psychiatrists, best of medical treatment, and everything else, for 24 years. This would cost the state of Ohio hundreds of thousands of dollars. The electric chair did a good job for years. Who were the idiots who retired it?

God Places Capital Punishment on Certain Laws

Let me say this because our time is sort of slipping away. Let's get on to some other things here, and fast! I'm going to throw them out, then we'll look up the verses for next week. You find out in Exodus 20:13, where we have the Ten Commandments, some of these liberal theologians point their little fingers and say, "Oh, 'Thou shalt not kill.'" These little "sweetie-pies" that don't know beans from apple butter. When it says in the Bible, "Thou shalt not kill," it should read in the original Hebrew, "Thou shalt do no murder."

If you go right on and read Chapters 20 through 23 of the Book of Exodus, let me tell what you will find. You find out that if a person hits his father and mother, that person is to be put to death (Exodus 21:15). That Law had capital punishment placed upon it.

If you steal somebody, you are to be put to death for kidnapping (Exodus 21:16). You don't do that. I wonder how many kidnappings we'd have in any state in America if we had laws comparable to what God said to do under the Old Testament Law? I wonder what would happen if every kidnapper who got caught was put to death? I'll tell you what. They'd change their occupation, folks, real fast!

If a son cursed his mother and dad, he was to be put to death (Exodus 21:17). Why? Because God knew that if a son did not respect his mother and dad, and cursed his mother and dad, he would be a complete menace to society. He would cause many other young people to follow in his footsteps. It would be better to kill the teenager than allow that

teenager to take another 15, 20, or 30, kids with him. That's how you clean up society. That's how God wanted it done.

Today, Christian parents send their children off to the local secular college. These are the children they have spent their life time teaching Christian values to. After the humanistic professors, who teach in today's secular colleges, get hold of them, they come home as totally different people. Instead of getting a higher education, they have been taught to demand whatever they want, and, if they don't get it, they should riot and rebel. Most of our secular colleges are breeding grounds for atheism, and rebellion, not institutions of higher learning.

God put the responsibility upon the individual, not upon his parents, not upon somebody else, and we excuse this "poor guy." No! If you do it, you are responsible, one hundred percent.

Even clear back in Exodus 21:28, 29, if a man had a vicious ox, and someone comes to him and tells him, "Your ox is vicious, and he will kill someone if he possibly can." If the owner does not keep him penned up, and the ox gets loose and kills someone, God says, "You put that owner to death. He knew that ox was dangerous. He is responsible." God makes the individual become responsible.

In Exodus 22:18, God talks about witches. This is right after the Law. This is right after the so-called "Ten Commandments." All these are given here at the same time. We find that a witch, the ones in the occult, are to be put to death! They'll corrupt your whole society. Look at your young people that are caught up in witchcraft, and occult satanic worship, today. Look how many lives have been snuffed out. If the witch had been put to death, to begin with, you might have saved hundreds of thousands of people that these misfits are taking down the tubes with them.

We're in such a perverted nation today. There are some things I never knew existed until I got on the police de-

partment. I've seen some of this. Mankind committing sexual acts with animals. Unheard of! God says, "If you ever find that happening, you put that man to death because he's perverted completely. You find that death penalty in Exodus 22:19. A man is not to have any relationship with a beast.

Another thing that is sort of interesting. If a man rapes a woman, or who knows? Sometimes we have a woman raping the man, we're in such a perverted society today. Womanhood has almost gone down the tubes, anymore. We thank God for the women who act like women, look like women, and smell like women, but I tell you, we're in a corrupt society. However, in Deuteronomy 22:25, if any man rapes a woman, and I'm going to use this, today, if any woman rapes a man, they are to be put to death. The death penalty was for rape. Isn't that interesting?

In Leviticus 20:10-12, there was the death penalty for adultery. We'd clean out a lot of the population today, wouldn't we? I know in the area I live in, it would be pretty sparse around here if everyone got executed for adultery. Things would get weeded out pretty fast.

But God said, "I don't want people just running around, lying in bed with everybody else's wife." You do not have a sane society when you do that. You dishonor your own body. You dishonor God. God made one man for one woman, and that's what God wants. He doesn't want all the "try outs." That's why you have so many divorces. We're just going to live together. No commitments. No marriage license. Not following the laws. Not doing what God wants us to do. Not establishing a Christian home. Let's just produce the children.

Who knows what dad this one belongs to, and who knows who that one belongs to. We're just going to switch beds when we want to. God said, "Put them to death, and it will clean up society."

The reason God did this, folks, is that He wanted a nation that would honor Him. He wanted a nation that He could trust to go out and win the world and tell them about the Creator, Jehovah. He wanted a nation that would point the world to the coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God put these penalties in the Bible in order to keep a nation clean, so it would be a national entity where the innocent person could walk down the street without fear, not the crook. A place where the crook had to run, and not the innocent person. Where you have capital punishment, it is the biggest deterrent to the crime of murder you'll ever find.

“Capital punishment is a legal penalty in the United States, currently used by 31 states, the federal government, and the military. Its existence can be traced to the beginning of the American colonies. The United States is the only Western country currently applying the death penalty, one of 56 countries worldwide applying it, and was the first to develop lethal injection as a method of execution, which has since been adopted by five other countries.

There were no executions in the United States between 1967 and 1977. In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down capital punishment statutes in *Furman v. Georgia*, reducing all death sentences pending at that time to life imprisonment.

Subsequently, a majority of states passed new death penalty statutes, and the court affirmed the legality of capital punishment in the 1976 case of *Gregg v. Georgia*. Since then, more than 7,800 defendants have been sentenced to death, over 1,400 of them have been executed, more than 2,900 are still on death row, and 158 have been exonerated, but none of these have been executed. The death penalty is in practice applied only for

murder involving an aggravating factor such as multiple victims, rape, robbery, or a victim under a certain age.”
Source – Wikipedia, 5 June 2017

In reference to execution by capital punishment, even Phil Donahue says, “Put ‘em on public tv, and let the kids see it.” You know what? I’m for that 100 percent. Let your child see somebody burn in the electric chair, or die of a hanging, or lethal injection. Teach them this criminal’s life was snuffed out because they were violent, and they committed murder. They committed an assault on God’s Creation, and they were executed.

Show that to your young person, folks, and let them know what the consequences of murder will be if they commit such an act. I’ll guarantee you they’ll think twice before they just grab a gun, run down the street, or shoot the kid next door, because of one petty reason, or another. We have so many murders in America, today, that it is almost frightening to go out your front door.

This is the court’s fault, because they will not execute, and the legislator’s faults for not passing legislation that will deter this kind of perverted actions.

In closing this morning, you’re under a death sentence. You’re under capital punishment because of sin. The wages of sin is physical death. God has never remitted your capital punishment for that. But, as far as eternity is concerned, he has remitted that, because He has paid your penalty for death, that is spiritual death. God said, “I love the world, and I gave my only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should never perish, but have everlasting life.”

If you're trusting in baptism, or you're trusting in your church, or you're trusting in your denomination, I'm going to tell you, folks, you'll go straight to Hell. Salvation is in a Person, and His name is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God Incarnate, i.e. God in human flesh. Religion will always put something ahead of Jesus Christ.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

— John 14:6

Well, we thank you for being a part of the Heritage Radio Bible Class. If you have never written us, we do hope that you will take time to do that. We would love to hear from you, we really would. Our address is Heritage Radio Bible Class, Post Office Box 573, Walnut Grove, Minnesota, and our zip code is 56180,

May the Lord richly bless you, as we ever pray, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

The Case For Capital Punishment

Part 3

“Now consider this, ye that forget God...”

*I am he that liveth, and was dead: and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. —
Revelation 1:18*

Thank you! It is so good to have you join us at the same time each week, and we count it a privilege to have you as our radio listener. We do hope that you have your Bibles out and that you're ready to follow along with us.

To begin with, turn to Psalm, Chapter 50. This is our third message on capital punishment. We have found that God instituted capital punishment, and has carried it out many times over, Himself.

I would like for you to notice in Psalms 50, that God is reminding the nation of Israel that He has given them the Law, so they would be a light in a dark world that would glorify Him. He warns the “wicked,” who presented their offerings in hypocrisy, since they condoned thievery, adultery, were deceitful, and would act as a false witness against a relative, or a brother (“thine own mother’s son”), that a day of judgment is coming when God will, “...reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes” (Psalm 50:21). Let us begin in Verse 16,

“But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? (16)

Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. (17)

When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. (18)

Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. (19)

Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. (20)

These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. (21)

Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.”

— Psalm 50:16-22

We are just showing, here, that God is a God of judgment. If you'll go with me, now, to Proverbs 1:7, Solomon tells us,

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

— Proverbs 1:7

The Lord Jesus Christ also is God.

I (Christ) and *my* Father (God) are one.

— — John 10:30

He is God, the Son, and has the same right to execute capital punishment as God, the Father. Revelation 1:18, is just one of many verses in the Word of God where that is found, and it says,

“I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

— Revelation 1:18

So, you see, God is a God of judgment, He surely is. He executes capital punishment, Himself, many times over in the Bible. Yet, I have to say, in liberal churches, today, you seldom hear very much, if anything, about God's judgment, and the execution of capital punishment.

The liberal, and modernistic, churches of today, are under this “love syndrome.” Of course, their preachers don't want to say anything to offend you because, after all, you support their Church. You are the reason they keep their jobs, so they do not want to get on any topic that's go-

ing to upset their congregations, no matter if the Word of God teaches it, or not.

We find the first institution of capital punishment occurred clear back in Genesis 9:6, right after the flood.

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”
— Genesis 9:6

We find God did not implement capital punishment, until after the flood because He wanted to show mankind what would happen when murderers are not put to death.

After the flood, the institution of capital punishment was given to Noah as part of the unconditional Noahic Covenant. As I previously said, a covenant is an agreement, or contract, made between God and man, binding them together. There are two kinds:

1. “Conditional, its formula being: “If thou will” (Exodus 19:5). They depend upon the faithfulness of man.
2. “Unconditional,” its formula being: “I will” (Genesis 9:11). Unconditional Covenants are not based upon what man will do, but, upon the faithfulness of God. Dispensations and Covenants are linked together.

The Noahic Covenant is a universal covenant with all mankind, established before the Law was ever given. It runs from the flood until the New Heavens and the New Earth.

The Noahic Covenant is an unconditional covenant linked to the Dispensation of Human Government. Each Dispensation begins with a covenant and ends with a judgment. Man’s responsibility during the Dispensation of Human Government was to govern the Earth (world), and God told man exactly the way it should be done in Genesis 9:1,

“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”

This is not hard to understand! Mankind was to spread out and multiply by raising families, to repopulate the earth.

Instead, they congregated in the Plains of Shinar, and approximately 400 years after the flood, men decided they would no longer offer the sacrifices which looked forward to Calvary. They were going to “make a name for themselves,” “and build a city, and a tower,” with their own hands. They were going to build a tower “whose top *may reach* unto heaven.” In other words, they would reject “the shedding of blood for the remission of sins,” and try to get to Heaven by the work of the own hands.

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

— Genesis 11:4

Just as God rejected the bloodless leaves that Adam, and Eve, tried to cover their sin with, and the beautiful things that Cain tried to offer from his garden instead of the “firstlings of his flock,” God, also, rejected the Tower of Babel. It was idol worship, and Satan was behind it all.

Well, all the people on the earth, at this time, spoke the same language. The Tower of Babel was the beginning of idol worship, and it continues today in Catholicism. Lutheran churches have, also, substituted another Tower of Babel by teaching there is saving grace in the baptismal water, and the Lord’s Supper, and that their preachers can forgive your sins.

The judgment that ended the Dispensation of Human Government was the confusion of these languages. In that way, God spread them out over the earth. We find that in Genesis 11:6-8,

“And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. (6)

Go to, let us (the Trinity) go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. (7)

So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.”

— Genesis 11:6-8

We find the details of the Noahic Covenant are given in Genesis 8:20—9:17. This unconditional covenant, made between God and Mankind, made at the beginning of the Dispensation of Human Government, contains these provisions.

1. God would not again destroy the earth by water.
2. The natural order of the seasons is to be preserved.
3. Noah and his descendants are to multiply and replenish the earth.
4. Man has dominion over animal kingdom and Man's diet was changed to include meat.
5. Capital punishment is established as part of the Noahic Covenant and is in effect until the New Heavens and the New Earth become a new home for all the saved.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

— Revelation 21:1

“And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. (24)

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.”

— Revelation 21:24-25

6. God's Word establishes capital punishment.

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

— Genesis 9:6

How long does God expect his establishment of capital punishment to be executed? It extends to the New Heavens and the New Earth, after the Earth has been renovated by fire.

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (12)

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

— 2 Peter 3:12-13.

Capital punishment for murder was God’s will immediately after the flood, and through all following dispensations, and capital punishment is God’s will for the Church Age, today. Why? God knew this was the only way society could be controlled against Satan’s men. This is what Christ told Israel’s religious leaders,

“Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a MURDERER from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

— John 8:44

The Jews could not stand Christ’s words of indictment, and brought false witnesses against Him in a mock trial, after which, they crucified Him.

I repeat, if you are actively witnessing for Christ, the religious crowd, Satan’s crowd, will do the same to you. If you are not experiencing some type of persecution from the lost, you are not witnessing.

The nation of Israel thought God’s words were of no more value than human reasoning. God’s indictment was,

“...thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself:”

— Psalm 50:21

The world was not impressed by Israel's example. Today, if your Christian walk does not back up your talk, no one will listen to you. God says,

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”—Isaiah 5:20

God is saying “Woe unto them...” who are calling the right things wrong, and the wrong things right.” President Barack Hussein Obama (2008 – 2016) was a master at doing this!

Then, we find the complete Law, consisting of the Moral, Civil, and Ceremonial Laws, were given when God chose the nation of Israel. At that time, God put specific punishment on specific crimes, because he wanted to clean up a nation. He wanted to have a nation that would love him, serve him, and be an example to the world. They were to point everyone to God. Therefore, some laws had the consequence of capital punishment.

For example, in Leviticus 20:13, God gave capital punishment as a consequence for homosexuality. God did not want men having relationships with other men, contrary to the way God created men.

In Deuteronomy 21:18-21, if you had a rebellious son, the death penalty was on that. It was for kidnapping. It was for cursing your mother and dad, and so forth.

Another very interesting thing. The death penalty was put on for demon possession. I would like for you to go to Isaiah 8:19. Here's what the word of God says about that,

And when they (the false prophets) shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

— Isaiah 8:19

Why do the living go to the dead? Even some of our presidents' wives have gone to mediums, and to those who

seem to have psychic powers to predict what's going to happen in the future to their husbands, to the world, and in America.

You can buy a newspaper to find out what your reading is from the star gazers, and get your horoscope. You see their commercials all over television. "Call your psychic, and they will tell you the future." This is nothing more than demon possession.

The words "familiar spirits" here is the Hebrew word "ob." It is pronounced "Ahv." When the Old Testament was translated into Greek the word, "ob," was translated as "egastromuthus," and it means "ventriloquist." These demons were described as "wizards that peep and mutter."

A wizard is a male medium who is demon-possessed. He "peeps," and that means he utters high-pitched sounds. He "mutter," and that means he emits low-pitched sounds. However, these sounds are not of his own making. We should be very interested in what, or who, is doing the peeping, and muttering. It is a ventriloquist demon.

This verse asks the question, "Should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" This means, "Why should the living go to the dead when they have a living God? Shouldn't they go to a living God, instead of trying to contact the dead through a "wizard," or medium? I, certainly believe they should. This has to do with necromancy, and "necromancy" means "contacting the dead." God has given us all we need to know about the state, and circumstances of those in Heaven, and those in Hell, in the Bible.

Another activity of the egastromuthus demon is found in Isaiah 29:4.

And thou shalt be brought down, *and* shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

This verse is making an allegory, or example, to describe demonism. The mediums used to put their ear to the ground to hear the voice of the dead, but the voice they heard would actually be that of a demon imitating someone who was dead. The phrase, “familiar spirit,” again, the Hebrew word, “ob,” refers to a demon who indwells the medium, and impersonates the dead. Often, someone from the distant past will be involved.

For example, a demon who spent a lot of time in India, a thousand years ago, might be getting into some person in Chicago, or Los Angeles, or Sacramento, or Miami, right now, and actually be able to imitate, and impersonate, people who lived in that period of time. These demons have been known to impersonate many languages from many different eras from the past. People, who have lived in the past, are brought right into the twenty-first century through demonism.

God, in Leviticus 20:27, has initiated capital punishment for this kind of demon possession.

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

— Leviticus 20:27

“...Their blood shall be upon them,” shows that it is of their own volition that they choose to follow this sort of thing.

We are not taking time to go into this, today, but much demonism is involved in organized religions. You look at the religions that have you fall down and worship idols in their Church. These are some of your main line denominations, one in particular. You go in, and you bow. How many idols do you see to this person, or that person, when you go into the church? You bow your knee down to them, and you pray, and have this person, or “this saint,” intercede for

you. That's demonism, folks! Satan loves to imitate, and he surely does a good job of it.

“For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” — 1 Timothy 2:5

Now, in the same religious organization, I never hear anyone say, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). Mark this down, again! A cult religion will always, always, point you to someone else, other than our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“You must *do something* to go to Heaven,” they say. You must have the pastor forgive your sins, or join their church, give money (sizeable amounts are the best), do good things for the community, be baptized, take communion, repeat certain prayers, or verses, and the list goes on and on. But, just don't trust the Lord Jesus Christ, alone, as your Savior! That's the difference. And it is the difference between an eternity in Heaven, or an eternity in Hell.

Oh, Satan loves for you to be religious, and his ministers, we're told in 2 Corinthians, come “as angels of light.” They come as “ministers of righteousness,” and their messages will be full of this lovey-dovey syndrome.

“For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (13)

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (14)

Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

— 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

But, God is a God of judgment, and this is a principle that He has given. He knows that capital punishment for capital crimes is the only way the influence of Satan's men on society can be controlled. In Ecclesiastes 8:11, the Word of God says this,

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” — Ecclesiastes 8:11

In other words, when you have swift and sure punishment, it is a deterrent to crime, but if you do not have it, and when “...sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, you leave the criminals, thinking, “Well, let's go ahead, and do it again! We just got our little hands slapped.” But, when you have capital punishment on crimes, it's the biggest deterrent to crime.

Habakkuk, the prophet, looked out on the injustice, and violence, in the world of his day, and asked what we often ask today. “Why doesn't God do something?” It seemed, in Habakkuk's day, as though the wicked were prospering, and even though God's people were praying, their prayers were doing no good. The problem was not being faced or solved, and the little book of Habakkuk actually brings that out.

Notice in Chapter 1, Verse 4.

“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

— Habakkuk 1:4

Let me read it again.

“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

Why do we have so much violent crime today? Why? Because the law is slack. The word “slack” is translated from the Hebrew word “pug,” and is from a primitive root; and means “to be sluggish:- cease, be feeble, faint, be slacked.”

The law of our land has become feeble, faint, and sometimes ceased entirely, because it's playing “handsy-pandsy” with criminals who should be punished. Because

the parole boards are seeing a reformation in this person, and they're letting them out for capital crimes, like murder, kidnapping, rape, and child molestation.

We have established that God has instituted capital punishment, and we are now going to observe the way He exercises it, Himself, through his leaders.

Capital Punishment for Worshipping the Golden Calf

Let's go back to Exodus, Chapter 32. Most of you may be familiar with this. Moses had been up on Mount Sinai. God had kept him up there for quite some time. The people were down at the foot of the mountain, and Aaron was in charge until Moses came back down the mountain.

What happened was, Moses didn't come down when the people thought he should. They got restless and demanded that Aaron make them "gods." They pooled all of their gold earrings, gave them to Aaron, and he made a golden calf, an idol.

"And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."

— Exodus 32:1

I'd like for you to notice here in Exodus 32:25-28,

"And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) (25)

Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. (26)

And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. (27)

And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

— Exodus 32:25-28

Yeah! This is God executing capital punishment because of their idolatrous worship. You see that, as we said before, in your organized religion. Let me ask you something. In the church you go to, do you see idols all over the place? Do you see images of so called saints? This, here, is Saint so-and-so, and this is Saint so-and-so? That's idolatry, Sir, and Madam. That's idolatry. God forbids an idol of anything. Even under the Ten Commandments, God says,

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (3)

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: (4)

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;”

— Exodus 20:3-5

God wants you to serve Him, and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, only.

Now, I'd like for you to go back with me to Exodus, Chapter 22. In Exodus 22, there were not to be any other gods at all. None. There is the death penalty in Exodus 22:20, also.

“He that sacrificeth unto *any* god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.”

— Exodus 22:20

But, let's take Exodus 20:3,

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Now, let's go to Exodus 22:20, and see what the penalty was for this. In Verse 20 it says,

“He that sacrificeth unto *any* god, save unto the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.”

God hates idolatry, and you have religion, today, filled with it. You can tell a true church if they promote the Lord Jesus Christ. Do they tell you that you can know for sure you are going to Heaven when you die? Or, do they just want to put on all the festivities, run you through a religious ritual to get you in on Sunday morning, put a wafer in your mouth, and send you out the door feeling good about yourself? Friend, if that is what your church is like, you are in a cult religion.

However, if that preacher tells you that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven, according to John 14:6,...

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

...then you have a good church that is preaching the truth, and Christianity.

If you do not have that, then you have a religious counterfeit, and Satan loves you. You're deceived. And, you'll die, and lift up your eyes in Hell, being deceived, because you've trusted in a system. You've trusted in your pastor. You've trusted in your baptism. You've trusted these liars who have told you you're such a good person. The Bible says, “You are not good. You're a sinner, and you need a Savior.” If you are trying to be your own Savior, you will find out you can never save yourself.

“For by grace are we saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (8) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” — Ephesians 2:8-9

And then, Isaiah 64:6,

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

— Isaiah 64:6

All of the good works that you try to pile up to impress society, your preacher, your church, your board, or your

neighbor, are nothing but a pile of filthy rags. God doesn't look on the front that you put on the outside. He looks upon the heart and knows everything you've devised. He knows everything you're thinking.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (12)

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” — Hebrews 4:12-13

We find that bowing down and worshipping these plaster statues is actually demon worship, and Satan loves that. Notice Exodus 32:7-10. Let's go back, and read where this started.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: (7)

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. (8)

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: (9)

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.” —Exodus 32:7-10

God was going to destroy the whole pile of them, right there, including Aaron. Moses confronted Aaron, and Aaron's classic statement was, “I don't know what happened. Bingo! Out came this golden calf!” Aaron, you big liar. You were the leader of it, Sir. You should have been the one who put up a bulkhead against it.

God executed judgment, and 3,000 died. Yes! God is a God of capital punishment.

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. (26)

And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, *and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.* (27)

And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.”

— Exodus 32:26-28

Capital Punishment – Korah and His Followers

Now, let's go to the Book of Numbers where, in Chapter 16, we find a rebellious group of men. The leader's name was Korah. He wanted the priesthood. He wanted more responsibility than what he had. And, he was jealous of Moses, and God hates that kind of jealousy! God had raised up Moses to lead them, not Korah. God executed capital punishment, and a lot of people died. Numbers 16:1-2, let's read it together.

“Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: (1)

And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:”

These were your “hot shots” in religion. These were your “big shots” in the camp.

“And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?”

— Numbers 16:3

These would be the prima donnas in your town, today, that belong to *the* church. You know, the *downtown* church. They are looked upon as your leaders. Well, these leaders were full of envy and jealousy.

Then, let's go over here to Verse 27 where things begin to happen, all right?

“So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. (27)

And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for *I have not done them* of mine own mind.”

— Numbers 16:27-28

God executes the punishment upon them. Notice in Verse 31,

“And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that *was* under them: (31)

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah, and all *their* goods. (32)

They, and all that *appertained* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.”

— Numbers 16:31-33

Here, the Lord just simply caused an earthquake, and the earth “clave apart.” God executed capital punishment on them right there, and they went down into the earth alive, and they died. God hates that kind of rebellion.

Notice another occasion of jealousy. Let's go back to Numbers 16:2. And it says,

“And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:”

— Numbers 16:2

Now, I would like for you to go on over to Numbers 16:35. This is very interesting.

“And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.”
— Numbers 16:35

God took care of them. He just killed every one of them, all 250 men, and God can do that. However, not all of Korah’s family died. Notice in Numbers 26:10,11.

“And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign. (10)
Notwithstanding the CHILDREN of Korah died not.”
— Numbers 26:10-11

Some of his family were content to be humble ministers, and not priests. We have Psalms written “For the Sons of Korah” in our Bible. They are Psalm 84, 85, 87, 88. Note Psalm 84:10,

“ For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”
— Psalm 84:10

Not all in the family followed Korah’s wicked ways. Where do you stand?

“ *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” (This is the middle verse of the Bible.)
— Psalm 118:8

I would like for you to go on. We are going to see where 14,700 die. They die as a result of God, Himself, executing capital punishment. This would be like, if you had the equipment and supplies back in those days, lining them up and putting them in the electric chair, putting them up for hanging, putting them up for lethal injection. God just killed them, instantly. Right now!

Notice in Verse 41 of the same chapter. This is interesting,

“But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.”

— Numbers 16:41

Now, they blame Moses and Aaron for this, when God was the One who did it. Isn't that just like religion today? Oh, God wouldn't do that. Oh, God's a God of love. You can hear these modernistic, damnable, preachers standing up there, pretending to be the “ministers of righteousness,” and they are really ministers of Satan.

When have you heard capital punishment taught, according to the Bible, in your church? Go to your pastor and ask him what he thinks. What does your church, or what does your denomination teach concerning capital punishment? Ask him what he thinks God teaches about it?

It has probably been a long time since you have heard your pastor say anything about capital punishment. You know why? He doesn't want to “rattle your cage.” He doesn't want you to get upset. He doesn't want you to think God is a God of judgment. He doesn't want you to know that. You may leave the church.

After all, if you belong to a mainline denomination like the Methodists, Lutherans, Catholics, and some of these others, you're going to find out if you leave, and you don't come to church, they have to pay for you. You've got a price on your head, friend. If you're a member of that church, and you don't come, well, then, they don't want you as a member. Local congregations have to send so much money to the big boys upstairs, every month, 6 months, or year, however, they do it. If you don't come, you're costing them money! They either want you to come and pay or don't come at all. That's the way organized religion works.

You ought to check your denomination to see how much the price is on your head. Many times, without even asking, you will receive a notice stating how much you “owe.” This is religion, folks. This is not Christianity. Chris-

tianity gives you liberty. It sets you free, and it doesn't put a price tag on your head. “Well, if you come and join our church, now, you have to send to the General Counsel, up here, or the big boys here, or our home office, so we can run all these things. After all, you have to give your fair share.” And, giving is put on you as a guilt trip, not as something that you want to do because you love the Lord Jesus Christ. Here, again, is the counterfeit, religion versus Christianity.

Capital Punishment – 14,700 People Accuse God

Let's go on down. Let's go here to Verse 41 where the people are saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.” God answers this false accusation in Numbers 16:44-46.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (44) Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment...”

God was going to execute capital punishment again!

“...And they fell upon their faces.(45) And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.”

— Numbers 16:44-46

You've got to admire the bravery of Moses and Aaron for doing this.

“And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people. (47) And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed. (48) Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah. (50) And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.”

— Numbers 16:47-50

Here, God, Himself, executed capital punishment. He killed, not only the 250 of those that rebelled of the House

of Korah but an additional 14,700. God would have wiped them all out, had it not been for the intercession of a godly man. Moses went in to God and pled for the people who had rebelled against God. But, God had executed capital punishment.

Numbers 25:1-7: Capital Punishment+Contradiction

I'd like for you to go one more place while we're here in Numbers. Go with me to the 25th Chapter, and I think we can get this in this morning. Let's try to cover this briefly if we can. Numbers 25:1-7. This is interesting. We find that 24,000 died that God has killed, Himself. You might as well have set the electric chair up, and run them through, and pulled the switch on every one of them. God executed every one of them, Himself. I'd like for you to notice in Numbers 25:1-7. Here we go. Follow with me.

“And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. (1)

And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. (2)

And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: (That is the god, Baal there in Mount Peor) and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. (3)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. (Go! Kill them!) (4)

And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. (5)

And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. (6)

And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; (7)

And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were TWENTY AND FOUR THOUSAND.

— Numbers 25:1-8

The Phinehas we see in Verse 7, was a grandson of Aaron. He took a javelin and killed them both. The woman was a Midianite who was worshipping Baal-peor right in front of the entrance to the Tabernacle where everyone could see. You're not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers!

Notice in Verse 9,

“And those that died in the plague were TWENTY AND FOUR THOUSAND.”

— Numbers 25:9

Now, I just want to point something out. In 1 Corinthians 10:8, it says 23,000, and they fell in *one day*!

“Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, AND FELL IN ONE DAY three and twenty thousand.”

— 1 Corinthians 10:8

We've had many of the infidels say, “Uh-oh, we have a contradiction in the Bible.” If you'll notice in 1 Corinthians 10:8, it was 23000 *in one day*. In the *whole plague*, there were 24,000 killed. There is no contradiction at all!

Well, I see our time's gone. If you're hunting a church, we'd like to invite you to our services in Walnut Grove, at Heritage Baptist Bible Church. Services on Sunday morning are at 10 o'clock. We would love to have you come visit with us. We surely would.

Also, if you've never taken time to write, we hope that you'll do that, too. Our mailing address is Heritage Radio Bible Class, P.O. Box 573, Walnut Grove, Minnesota. I might just say this.

If you've never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, we hope that you'll do it now. God says,

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

— John 3:16

Thank you for being with us today. We look forward to seeing you next week. Until then, may the Word of God keep marching on.

The Case For Capital Punishment

Part 4

“Swift and Sure Punishment”

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” — Ecclesiastes 8:11

Thank you! It is so good to have you join us at the same time each week. We do hope that you have your Bibles out, and are ready to follow along with us. We are now concluding this series of messages, and this will be our last message on capital punishment. We have found out that God is a God of judgment, and that God has not only instituted capital punishment, but He has executed capital punishment on every human being.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

— Romans 6:23

Capital Punishment on Wicked King Ahaziah

Let’s go through, and get some of the things we have not covered in our previous messages. Go with me in your Bibles, now, to 2 Kings, Chapter 1. In this chapter, we find a king by the name of Ahaziah. He was a very wicked king and was the son of King Ahab, whose father was also very wicked. I would like for you to notice, here, in the last two or three verses of the last chapter of 1 Kings what the Bible says about Ahaziah,

“And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:

(52)

For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.”

— 1 Kings 22:52-53

Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice in the upper chamber in Samaria. He was sick, and he wanted to find out if he was going to live. So, he had sent messengers to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron. In the meantime, God had sent Elijah, and said, “Intercept him and tell the king I'm the One who is the Author of life and death.” Remember in Revelation 1:18,

“I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore (Said the Lord Jesus Christ), Amen; and (I) have the keys of hell (That is your position) and of death (That is your condition).” — Revelation 1:18

So God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God in human flesh, has that power, also. To make a long story short, and to show that God is a God of judgment, and capital punishment, Elijah met them and said, “You go back and tell King Ahaziah that he is going to die. So God executed capital punishment on Ahaziah.

“And they (the king's messengers) said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, *Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that* thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.”

— 2 Kings 1:6

Ahaziah sent back again. This time he sent 50 men. Let's pick it up again in 2 Kings 1:9,

“Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.”

— 2 Kings 1:9

Then, you find out in Verse 10,

“And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I *be* a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.”

— 2 Kings 1:10

Well, then, King Ahaziah sent to Elijah again and sent another 50. We find in Verse 12 that God executed capital punishment, and fire came down and killed that 50, too. So, God is a God of capital punishments.

“And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I *be* a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.”

— 2 Kings 1:12

Notice, in Verse 13, you find out after the second 50 had come, King Ahaziah sent again a captain of a third 50, and he fell down on his knees before Elijah. These, God did not kill. The second 50, He did. Notice here in Verse 13,

“And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.”

— 2 Kings 1:13

Even though God had already told Ahaziah he was going to die, Ahaziah did not accept it. As a result, God had executed capital punishment on King Ahaziah, and 102 of his men.

185,000 Assyrians Executed

While we're in 2 Kings, go over to Chapter 19. In Chapter 19 we're going to find out that God executed capital punishment, and killed 185,000 Assyrians in one blow. I'd like for you to notice in the 2 Kings 19:35,

“And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses.”

— 2 Kings 19:35

Here, God rendered capital punishment on 185,000 Assyrians. We're going to emphasize the fact that not believing what God says about capital punishment, in the Bible, is why we have all the violence today. Capital punishment, remember, was instituted by God in Genesis 9:6,

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

— Genesis 9:6

“Swift and Sure Punishment”

We are going to center in on two verses which illustrate why we have such a violent society: Ecclesiastes 8:11 and Habakkuk 1:4. If we follow God's principle, as given in Genesis 9:6, and execute the murderer, then we're going to clean up a lot of violence in society today.

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” — Ecclesiastes 8:11

You find out if a murderer knows he's going to die, that makes a big difference in whether he goes ahead and commits murder.

But, when capital punishment is not instituted, the little Book of Habakkuk has the answer.

“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

— Habakkuk 1:4

I know this is quite a while back, clear back in 1968-69 when Charles Manson killed Sharon Tate. There were seven people that he, and his followers, brutally murdered. He and all of his accomplices are still alive today. We've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep Charles Manson alive. This man should have been executed years ago. So should those with him that brutally killed Sharon Tate, the other three in her house, and, two other men and a wife

down the road a short distance. There were seven people that they brutally murdered, yet, these people are still alive today.

Well, that sends a message to the murderer. “Hey, I can do it and get away with it. Yes, I may spend a few years behind bars, but, I'm not going to die for it.” The fear of death of your own life is the biggest deterrent to crime, especially, capital crimes.

But, again, we'd like for you to notice in the Book of Habakkuk 1:4,

“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

That's why you have the murderers on the street, and the innocent people are scared to go out on the street. The murderers should be behind bars, and the innocent people allowed to walk the streets. “...Therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.” We need to devise some system that, when the appeals take place, they should take place soon, and they should be over with. If the person is convicted, unequivocally, with no ifs, ands, or buts, the sentence should be carried out.

If the court proves the accused criminal has committed the murder, whether through eye witnesses, or ballistics tests, or DNA, or whatever forensic evidence it might be, and they can prove conclusively this is the murderer then, if they appeal, it should be done in a matter of months. It should not be dragged on for years, and years, and years. It costs the government (and, you and I, the taxpayer) hundreds of thousands of dollars, foolishly.

This is what Habakkuk is talking about when he says,

“Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.”

— Habakkuk 1:4

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

— Ecclesiastes 8:11

Tighten up the government system, tighten up the court system. In Romans, Chapter 13, God has delegated this responsibility to the courts and they are literally “...ministers of God for righteousness...”

We thank God for the honest judges. We always make a comment about those that are crooked. I've seen many crooked ones, being on the police department, myself. I arrested a judge. That's one of the people that I arrested when I was on the police department. He was as crooked as could be.

Any case that I have taken to court after the judge was arrested and fined, would plead not guilty. They were always found not guilty. So, you had it made if you were arrested by Patrolman Younce after I arrested the judge. I was lucky to only have two cases go into his court after that. He was a Municipal Court Judge, but he was crooked. And, I could go on, and tell you many things about the man. He's long since been dead, but he was a very crooked judge.

Death of Ananias and Sapphira Brings Fear

Let's go, now, to Acts, Chapter 5. Here is what capital punishment does. It throws fear into those who know they are going to die in the electric chair, by lethal injection, or whatever is being used.

In Acts, Chapter 5, we find two people involved. Their names are Ananias and Sapphira. God used them as an example because they lied to God. They lied to the Holy Spirit. And, God used them and executed capital punishment upon them. He put them to death, prematurely, and instantaneously, for an example, and, Brother, did it work!

Let's begin here in Verse 1 of Acts 5:1-5,

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, (1)

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. (2)

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? (3)

Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (4)

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: ...

Get this, now! Here is what it produced.

...great fear came on all them that heard these things.”

— Acts 5:1-5

It was about three hours later, according to Acts 5:7,

“... when his wife (Sapphira), not knowing what was done, came in.”

In Verse 8, as the Apostle Peter questioned Sapphira, she also lied.

“And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.”

Acts 5:9 tells us that lying to God has consequences.

“Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. (9)

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.”

— Acts 5:9,10

Get this now, in Verse 11. What did it produce? “Great fear came upon all of the church.”

“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”

— Acts 5:11

God used capital punishment, here, as an example, to show people what could happen as a result of lying to God.

Capital Punishment in Corinth

I would like for you go to 1 Corinthians, Chapter 11. Over here God, again, instituted capital punishment. They may not have known where this capital punishment came from until Paul wrote back to those in Corinth, and he told them why many of those people in Corinth were physically ill or had died.

If you read the Eleventh Chapter of 1 Corinthians, and get the scene before the Lord's Supper, you find out that they had a drunken feast before partaking of the Lord's Supper. They were more interested in their social life. Then, after their drunken feast, they would go in and pretend to put on the Lord's Supper. It was just nothing but a big showboat thing. It had no spiritual meaning to it, whatsoever, and made a mockery out of the Lord's Supper. They did not love the Lord Jesus Christ. They loved themselves and put on this show.

After Paul had written, and given the institution of the Lord's Supper, he gave them a warning. We will pick it up in Verse 29,

“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation...(or judgment) to himself...”

The word, “damnation,” in the Greek is “krima,” and it means “judgment.” That would be a better translation.

“For he ...drinketh judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (29) For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”

— 1 Corinthians 11:29-30

The word, “sleep,” is another word used for “dead.”
They are dead!

“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.
(31) But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord,
that we should not be condemned with the world.”

— 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

So, the chastening of the Lord upon some of these
Christians, that had been so deceived by Satan, was actual-
ly sickness brought by the Lord,

“...many of you *are* weak and sickly among you, and many of
you sleep. ...”

...or, you are dead.

So God brought capital punishment, again, here in the
city of Corinth. When Paul wrote this letter back to them,
they could, then, readily understand why many of their rel-
atives had died. Many of these were people that they knew,
that they worshipped together with. They were dead. Why
did they mysteriously die? They knew they didn't all die of
old age. God had executed capital punishment.

Capital Punishment Is Responsibility of the Courts

Let's go back, now, if you will, to Romans, Chapter 13,
and let's get this again, because we need to realize that cap-
ital punishment is a responsibility given to the courts.

“ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For
there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained
of God. (1)

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the or-
dinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to them-
selves damnation (or judgment). (2)

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil.
Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is
good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: (3)

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou
do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword

in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

— Romans 13:1-4

So, the responsibility of the courts, and the judges, is to render this kind of punishment and to uphold the laws. The problem is, sometimes, the judge’s hands are tied because laws are passed where the judge can do nothing. He is limited by what the law says. So, we need the state and national legislatures, and senates, and those who have the responsibility to make laws, and pass laws, to pass a law of capital punishment when it’s proved beyond any reasonable doubt, whatsoever.

Let me say this. In the Old Testament, you had to have two witnesses, or more, before a person would be put to death. It wasn't, necessarily, two eyewitnesses.

For example. If you were standing outside a house, and here came a man who pulled up in a car. He went into the house, and you saw that he was carrying a gun in his hand when he went in. You heard a shot, and he came out. In the meantime, when he went in, you called the police. The policeman comes. He sees the man coming out of the house carrying the gun, and, so, you have two eyewitnesses, although you, or the policeman, didn't actually see the shooting.

They go in and examine the crime scene. The examiners take the bullet that is found inside on the person who was killed. They run the ballistics, and they show this bullet came from the gun that the man carried in. There were no other fingerprints on the gun. So, by the fingerprints, and the ballistics that prove the bullet came from this gun, you have circumstantial evidence, which is as conclusive as an eye witness, that this man went in and murdered someone inside the house. This man should be put to death.

But, how many do we have on death row who have been there years, and years, and years? How many millions

of dollars would the state have if these men, who are cruel murderers, had been put to death, as they should have been?

Why don't you take a moment and re-read Pages 76 to 80?

God says,

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

— Genesis 9:6

Rendering verdicts of capital punishment is the responsibility of the courts, and the judges. In the Old Testament, the Lord said to those that were judges in Israel, “Don't take a gift from anyone because it will a pervert your judgment. Don't look to the left or to the right. Don't let somebody in society or someone pervert your judgment. Have no mercy for the murderer.” (Numbers 35:32). So many times we feel sorry for the murderer, instead of the victim, or the families of those that were murdered. After the murderer was found guilty of premeditated murder, the family “revenger of blood” was to “slay the murderer when he meeteth him.” (Numbers 35:19)

The Night When Capital Punishment Saved My Life

With that in mind, let me just say this. Back in Ohio when I was on the police department, I stopped a car one night. The other cruisers were tied up. I was working by myself as the backup man, and I spotted a car with five men in it. To make a long story short, they were driving real slow, and back in those days, you could tell by the license plate what county the plates were issued from. This car was from clear down by the Ohio River, down around Hamilton/ Middletown, Ohio. Here it was about 3:15 in the morning, and with five suspicious-looking characters inside.

Well, I stopped the car. To make a long story short, in stopping the car, I found out one was an escapee out of Port Huron, Michigan, and another was a parolee out of the Ohio State Penitentiary. There were two others who had nearly five pages of criminal records from ever since they had been 14 years old. They had done everything, but burn towns down. They had robbed everything, stolen everything. They were known, habitual, criminals.

Note: Many times the Troy Daily News got information for their news stories by talking with officers who had not been on the scene.

When I walked up to the car, to continue with the story, I got them all out of the car, and my call for back-up came. We locked them up.

After I searched the car, I found a 357 Magnum under a little blanket, right beside the door where I'd gotten the one man out.

I went back over to the jail a couple of days later. I questioned the man who had been sitting right behind the driver, there, with this 357 magnum lying right in front of him. His name was "Arthur Buddy Rogers", and I'll never forget him. I asked him, "What I don't understand, Sir, is why you didn't shoot me? Here we were. It was 3:15 in the morning. I'm the only officer on the scene. The other cruisers are tied up, and I'm the only one getting five of you men out. I only have one set of handcuffs. Why didn't you just pull that gun out and shoot through the door?"

Do you know what he said to me? He said, "Officer, let me honest with you. Do you really think I am going to burn in the electric chair for any blankety-blank police officer?" I said, "Boy, I love your philosophy." Thank you, State of Ohio for capital punishment, or I would have been blown away clear back there, a number of years ago. (That was 1963, the year the State of Ohio decommissioned "Old

Sparky,” and went to execution by lethal injection. (Thankfully, Mr. Rogers did not know that.)

Headlines As Burglary Ring is Uncovered

“Troy Burglers Learn Old Saying Is True About Thieves Honor”

Troy Daily News Story by Kathy Kleine – 1963

“There’s no honor among thieves.”

At least that seemed to be the case in last week’s burglary of the Snyder-McDonald Garage on South Union Street after the details of the Troy Police Department investigation of the burglary were pieced together by Patrolmen Max Younce and Clint Luttrell yesterday.

Among the highlights: The \$1,559 worth of merchandise taken from the garage was actually stolen twice. Younce’s alertness kept the store from being burglarized a second time, and a fictional character created by one of the subjects to throw police off the trail sent investigators scurrying over the southwestern Ohio countryside before they realized the man they were looking for didn’t exist.

Younce and Luttrell, who investigated the burglary for the Troy Police Department, reconstructed events this way.

On the afternoon of Nov. 8, according to the police report, Arthur Rogers, 26, of Hamilton, drove up to the Snyder McDonald Garage, went into the building and looked around to deter-

mine how to break into it.

He drove back to Hamilton and let another Hamilton man, Floyd Bruck, 41, know that he intended to burglarize this building, the policemen said.

The policemen said they believe Rogers intended to sell the stolen merchandise to Bruck.

However, police said, Bruck beat him to it. Younce and Luttrell said Bruck drove to Troy from Hamilton early Tuesday morning, entered the building and took the merchandise.

He drove back to Hamilton, parked his car near his residence, leaving the merchandise inside.

Two hours later, another Hamilton man, George Brown, who, police said, had asked Bruck to get him two chain saws for a man in Michigan, saw Bruck’s parked car, looked inside, saw the merchandise and took it, according to his statement to the Hamilton Police Department. Police said he told them he had “re-rogued a rogue.”

[Correction: There were five men in the car. I ought to know. I was the one who stopped it.]

Early Wednesday morning, Younce was on patrol on South Market Street when he saw a car with three suspicious looking men in it. He stopped the car for a routine check. Inside were Rogers, and two other Hamilton men, John Rucker, 37, and Allan Spencer, 18. Younce said he found a gun belonging to Rogers under a blanket in the back seat of the car, and an order from a man in Michigan to George Brown in Hamilton, asking for some chain saws.

The patrolman took the three into custody to question them about the Snyder-McDonald burglary. They denied being involved. However, one of the men later said they had been to a hardware store near Celina earlier that night, intending to steal some guns. He said the lights were on in a building near the store and decided not to risk the burglary but came to Troy to "knock-off" the Snyder-McDonald Garage. Younce said the three did not realize Bruck had already burglarized the place.

The scene then goes back to Hamilton. George Brown needed some money to get the chain saws to Michigan, police said, so he sold one for \$120.00 to a man in Hamilton. The purchaser be-

came suspicious when he realized he had paid so little for a new piece of expensive equipment. He took the chain saw to a dealer in Hamilton to learn if it had been stolen.

The chain saw dealer knew similar equipment had been stolen in Troy and called Snyder-McDonald. The owners, Dick McDonald, and William Snyder confirmed that the chain saw was one of those taken from their garage. Hamilton police were notified, Brown was arrested, the rest of the merchandise was found in the basement of the home of Brown's brother, and the brother was arrested, too, for concealing stolen merchandise.

Younce and Luttrell said when they first questioned Bruck, he implicated a man named Roger Clark. They said they scoured the Hamilton and Middletown areas looking for Clark, before they confirmed that he didn't exist.

Police said they had no evidence that Rucker was directly involved and released him.

In the meantime, the investigation is going on to determine if the Hamilton men may have committed any other burglaries in this area. Police said they are wanted for questioning in Preble and Butler Counties.

"Troy Arrests May Uncover Burglary Ring Troy Daily News - 1963

Troy police this morning released the details of an investigation of the \$1,559 burglary at the Snyder-McDonald Garage which has led to the discovery of a burglary ring.

Charged with the burglary last week were Floyd Wilber Bruck, 41, and Arthur Rogers, 26, both of Hamilton. Rogers was also charged with carrying a concealed weapon. This morning Bruck waived a preliminary hearing in Municipal Court and was bound over to the grand jury on \$3,500 bond. Rogers is scheduled to appear for his hearing tomorrow.

The investigation was conducted by policemen Max Younce and Clint Luttrell.

Younce and Luttrell said that last week merchants from the

Troy and Piqua area were asked to come to police headquarters to see if they could identify any of the Hamilton men as ever having been in their stores.

Younce said the police department is withholding the results of the lineup until the investigation proceeds further.

The policemen said the Preble and Butler County authorities want to question the men in connection with recent burglaries.

Acting Police Chief Donald Lindner said that Younce and Luttrell did an "outstanding" job in solving the burglary, and credited the Miami County Sheriff's office, and Hamilton and Piqua Police Departments with helping to break open the case.

You're going to find out when Ananias and Sapphira died, it threw fear on the whole church. I am sure when Paul wrote the letter to those in Corinth, it threw fear upon

them when they found out, Hey, these people didn't just die of a heart attack. They died because the Lord Jesus Christ killed them for making a mockery of the Lord's Supper. God was going to use these situations as an example.

Let me go on, if I may. When you institute the death penalty, and people know they are going to die, it throws fear upon them. Arthur Roger's fear of capital punishment in Ohio's electric chair saved my life. Yes! Capital punishment strikes fear into the heart of the criminal.

Remember, Satan stalks everyone like a lion looking for its prey. He knows where man is weak. Listen to how Satan challenges God in Job 2:4,

“And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.”

— Job 2:4

Gun Laws

Let me go just a little bit further. We have problems with guns. We're trying to take them away from innocent, law-abiding citizens, now. We're punishing innocent people, honestly thinking that a 5-day waiting period is going to keep a gun out of a criminal's hands. That is absolutely juvenile, asinine thinking. It will not! But, they are going to make us do that.

Do you think the criminal is going to wait five days? Do you think the criminal is dumb enough to go to a gun store and buy a gun, when he can pick up any gun on the street, or buy a private gun anywhere? A criminal can get a gun anywhere. All these regulations do nothing but infuriate the innocent, law-abiding citizen.

Let me just give you something. Say that we had a law that said,

- If you carry a gun on any crime, I don't care what it is, if you have a gun in your possession, you are automatically five years behind bars.
- If you shoot the gun, I don't care if it's at a policeman or another person. I don't care if you hit them. I don't care if you miss them. But, if you fire that gun at another person, it is automatically 10 years behind bars. No ifs, ands, or buts. No parole. No nothing.
- Should you kill a law enforcement officer, it is the death penalty. Period!

Driving Drunk

Let me give you something else. We have hundreds of thousands of people killed every year by drunken drivers. If we had a law that said,

- If you are caught driving while you are drunk, it is automatically one year behind bars. You don't go to rehabilitation. One year will help rehabilitate you, Sir. It surely will. You'll think twice. You will probably get yourself sobered up spending a year behind bars without a drink
- If you have spent a year in jail for drunken driving, and you get caught the second time driving drunk, then you spend three years behind bars. And, if you get caught the third time, you spend five years behind bars, and you never drive again the rest of your life.
- If you are this kind of a drunk, I would hope you have a bicycle in your garage, as that is what you are going to be riding the rest of your life. At least society would be safer with you on a bicycle, than driving a car.

You say, O-o-o-h, that's terrible! This poor man has to support his family. Yes. And, if you allow him to drive

drunk, you just put a loaded gun in his hand, which is that car, loaded with alcohol, loaded with the fuel, able to pull the trigger of speed, and kill someone.

Let's think right, for a change! Wouldn't it be better to have a drunk behind bars for a year, than to have him out on the road committing a second, third, fourth, or fifth DUI? Maybe he will learn something. I am not so much worried about him, as who he can kill out there. Children can lose their father, or be killed by a drunk driving down the road. A family can lose their mother, or he can take out the whole family by hitting them head-on. Those are the people I'm worried about.

If you want to stop drunk driving. The first offense: a year behind bars. The second offense: three years behind bars. The third offense: five years behind bars, and you never drive again after the third offense.

You will, literally, drop the statistics on the thousands of people being killed by drunk driving. Isn't that who we should be concerned about? The victims, not the offenders.

Drug Laws

What about drugs? Well, let me ask you something. Marijuana is the most damnable drug on the market. It's worse than cocaine. It's worse than heroin. You know what cocaine will do. You know what heroin will do. But, do you know what marijuana will do?

Well, let me tell you. I have been a pastor for quite some time. When you've seen the multiplicity of young people that I have seen who, through the use of marijuana, are totally inoperative in society. Their brain cells have been burned out because they have been on it so long.

I know a man, quite well, who has a son who has been on marijuana 17 years. The son, now, wants to kill his father. He tries to destroy him everywhere that he lives. He

has been 17 years as a drug addict. He can sit down and smoke a whole bag of marijuana, and smoke it 24 hours straight, one joint after another. He is completely paranoid. He milks the welfare system, and that will be his life until he dies unless a miracle of God takes place.

Let me just say this. Do you want to legalize drugs? Well, when your child gets out of school and stands on a street corner, and some drug addict comes along, and wants to sell him a little grass, and a little pot, what are you going to do? It's legal now. You can't keep that guy from trying to induce your child into marijuana. It's legal!

Let me say this.

- If you're caught with any marijuana, one year behind bars.
- If you're caught the second time, three years behind bars.
- If you're caught the third time, five years behind bars.

I'll tell you what. Look at the hundreds of thousands of young people, just teen agers, whose lives have been ruined, and the many, many, premature deaths, from marijuana, alone. Wouldn't it be better to have one kid behind bars for a year, than to have another fifty, or a hundred, infected by the influence of this one child?

I don't feel sorry for the one who is incarcerated. I feel sorry for the innocent victims he is going to persuade to try marijuana at 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, years old. Those are the ones I feel sorry for. Because, after you have been on marijuana for 15, 17, years, you have some brain cells that are burned out, my friend.

When you see the cases that I have seen, and maybe you are familiar with some, yourself, who are inoperative in society. They are always paranoid. Everyone is out to "get them." They lack enthusiasm. They lack drive. All this, marijuana does. Marijuana is the most dangerous drug on the

market because it is a liar. It will always lie to you, and tell you, “It won’t hurt you.” Don’t believe that lie!

What I’m saying is this. If we start executing stiff punishment, and, I think some of the legislatures are starting to think that way, from what I hear on the talk shows. They are saying, “Hey, we need to get stiffer on crime, here.” If that person carrying a gun knows they will spend five years behind bars if they are caught. If they fire off that gun, it is ten years. And, if they kill someone, they are automatically put to death, and capital punishment is instituted without fail.

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil (continually).”

— Ecclesiastes 8:11

Ananias and Sapphira were killed instantaneously, and it threw fear upon the whole church.

I just want to say this. This man that I stopped, Arthur Buddy Rogers. He said, “Do you really think I am going to burn in the electric chair for any blankety-blank cop?” I’m so glad the State of Ohio had capital punishment, or I would have been dead a number of years ago.

Don’t let anyone brainwash you into saying that capital punishment is not the biggest deterrent to crime, because, folks, it is. It’s only the ignorant that come out with that kind of false philosophy to try to have you sympathize with the murderer, instead of sympathizing with the families that suffer because someone in their families has been murdered, like the family of that 22-year-old, expectant, mother from Ohio.

These murders are brutal! The Manson murders are a good example. You ought to get the book that tells their story, *Helter Skelter*. It is still available. You ought to sit down and read it. These people are still alive today. What a joke!

Well, what are you saying? I'm just saying, "God knows best."

This is our last message on capital punishment, and I want to take a minute, and just try to cover a few more things. We have not gone into depth on a lot of things, and there were a lot of things we could have covered, but we didn't.

The main point is, capital punishment was established by God because He knew this is the only way Satan's men, and women, can be controlled. There are always consequences for sin, just as there are consequences for a lack of punishment for sin. I will close with these two verses:

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." — Ecclesiastes 8:11

"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth." — Habakkuk 1:4

I believe that it has been proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Case FOR Capital Punishment has been won. God has the final word on this.

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." — Genesis 9:6

Case Closed!

In conclusion, you are under the sentence of capital punishment, as is all humanity. And, you know, "The wages of sin is death." Because the Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death," we are all under a sentence of capital punishment.

That's why "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." These human bodies, these sinful bodies, are under God's condemnation, and the death penalty. God has never remitted the physical consequences of death, but He

has remitted the spiritual consequences of death. Spiritual death is being separated from God for all time, and eternity.

It took an innocent person, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the price for all those who are guilty. God has said in 2 Corinthians 5:21,

“For he (God) hath made him (Christ) *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

And, in Philippians 3:9,

“And be found in him (Christ), not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

— Philippians 3:9

And, He tells us in Acts, Chapter 13:38,39,

“Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: (38) And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (39)

“Justified” means “declared righteous” in the Bible. It is a legal term.

Then, in Acts 4:12,

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name (Jesus Christ) under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

I’ll just say this. I have the sentence of death upon me. You have the sentence of death upon you. That physical death, God has never remitted. We’re all going to die physically, but I know this. When we have accepted Jesus Christ as the One who paid our capital punishment by going to the Cross, the innocent for the guilty, He will give us everlasting life. That’s me. That’s you. He died on that Cross to pay for my sins and yours.

The sad part about it, today, is that churches try to substitute everything, but, the blood of Jesus Christ. They say, “Be a good person. Join our church. Be water baptized. Get your kid baptized as an infant.” They propose everything in the world, but the truth.

“Come to us.” The Lutheran preacher stands up, and says, “I’ll forgive your sins in the name of Jesus Christ.” They propose every kind of phony counterfeit, except the one, and only, Person who can ever forgive your sins, the Lord Jesus Christ, God, Himself.

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”

— Psalm 118:8

You are under the condemnation of God, spiritually, and physically, for your sins that deserve capital punishment. Physically, you’re going to die. God has never remitted that. Spiritually, you will die the second death in the Lake of Fire for all time and eternity, unless you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Why not trust Him, right now, this minute?

Thank God He loved us while we were sinners. He sent Jesus Christ to take that punishment on the Cross, so He could set us free. “If you have the Son, you have life, not death.” No longer are you under the condemnation of capital punishment. No longer under the threat of being separated from God for all eternity, you have life because Jesus Christ, the Life-giver, gave His life to save yours.

Well, I see our time is gone. We hope you’ll take time to write us. Our mailing address is Heritage Baptist Bible Church, P.O. Box 573, Walnut Grove, Minnesota, and our zip code is 56180.

Until next week at this same time, May the Lord richly bless you as we ever pray, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Old Newspaper Clippings

These clippings from the Troy Daily News, and other local papers, detail real life events that happened during my time on the Troy, Ohio, Police Department. I have used most of them as illustrations in my sermons.

My time on the Police Department was an exciting part of my life, and I enjoyed it very much. But nothing has been more rewarding, or challenging, as my many years in the ministry. Bringing people to know that salvation, by grace, is free is much more exciting than hauling criminals in under the law.

Who Sits To Judge A Judge?

EDITOR'S NOTE – While writing the following article, Reporter Jim DeWeese received a ticket for overtime parking in front of the Troy Daily News Office. He is not expected to appeal.

Who sits in court when the court's judge himself has been cited?

That's the question facing Troy Municipal Court Judge Guy E. Landrey who was cited Friday evening for failure to yield the right-of-way.

Judge Landrey was involved in a minor auto crash on the Public Square in which no one was injured. The maximum fine is \$50.

Judge Landrey, of 707 S. Mulberry St., said four choices are open to him. He can ask the municipal court to appoint counsel, request the Miami

County Common Pleas Court to appoint counsel, ask for a change in venue or sit on his own case.

He noted that he should not sit in on his own case because he might be prejudiced. Instead, he probably will let Troy City Solicitor William Dixon decide on the course to be followed.

However, Judge Landrey allowed as how he doesn't expect to ask for a jury trial. No date has been set for the hearing

ATTORNEY TO PRESIDE Troy Judge Won't Hear His Own Traffic Charge

Daily News Miami County Bureau, 3-1/2 S. Plum St., Troy

TROY, Apr. 8 – Municipal Judge Guy E. Landrey, charged with a right-of-way violation following a minor accident,

won't hear his own case.

Common Pleas Judge David S. Porter yesterday granted Landrey's motion that he be disqualified. Judge Porter appointed Troy attorney Harley Enyeart to hear the case.

No date was set for the hearing.

JUDGE LANDREY said he would sit in on his own case but in his motion disqualifying himself explained he might be prejudiced.

The accident occurred last Friday night on the public square here. The judge was cited by P.H. Max Younce.

If he is found guilty or pleads guilty, the municipal judge could receive up to a \$50 fine.

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This Time The Judge Yields – Only A \$30 Fine

Troy Municipal Court Judge threw himself at the mercy of the court today and pleaded guilty to a traffic charge.

In an amusing courtroom meeting of old friends, attorney Harley Enyeart, holding court in his office, fined Judge Landry \$30 and costs on the charge.

Enyeart was appointed acting judge by Common Pleas Court Judge David S. Porter to hear the case against Landrey. He had been cited by Troy patrolman Max Younce for failure to yield the right of way after a minor collision on the Public

Square.

"You know" mused Enyeart after Landrey arrived, "It was nineteen hundred and sixty-five years ago today that Pilate sentenced Jesus Christ, so anything can happen.

Landrey didn't give Enyeart a chance to read the charge. "I waive the reading of the charge, plead guilty and throw myself at the mercy of the court," Landrey said.

"In that case," answered Enyeart, " I fine you \$30 and costs and I am sure you are aware that this is more than you generally fine for the same charge."

Maximum fine by city ordinance is \$50 and costs, but Landrey has a practice of setting the fine at \$20.

"I could have held you in contempt," Enyeart laughed as Landrey took out a check to pay the fine.

"How's that?" Landrey asked.

Because I'm sure you do hold this court in contempt," Enyeart retaliated.

As court adjourned, the two long-time friends drew their chairs closer together and began a good-natured discussion of the law.

Resigns Post On Force; Receives Jail Sentence

**By JIM DeWeese
Troy News Staff Writer**

Troy Police Lt. Paul Kessler, 708 E. Main St., today resigned from the force after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of concealing stolen goods.

The near 30-year veteran was sentenced to 10 days in jail and fined 150 in Troy Municipal Court.

He is the sixth Troy Policeman to receive court actions since last August. Kessler was arrested early Sunday morning by Lt. Dean Matthews, Patrolmen Ronald Detrick, Max Younce, and Gail Mourne after they "staked out" a South Cherry Street house.

Kessler admitted concealing \$72 value of clothing taken Saturday night from the Longendelpher Clothing Store, West Main Street. Roy Longendelpher, owner, said he was not aware of a burglary until notified by Troy policemen. Nine shirts, three hats, and one sweater were taken.

City Solicitor William Dixon said today the identity of the person who burglarized the store is not known but the case is under investigation

The clothing had been taken sometime after closing hours Saturday night. The arrest came about 4:15 a.m. when Kessler, while on duty and in uniform, was seen by fellow officers removing the merchandise from behind a house owned by Chauncey Collins, 22 West Franklin St. Kessler was arrested on the scene by officers and taken to police headquarters.

He has been on the force since September, 1945, and was appointed lieutenant last June after making the top score on a test by the Civil Service Commission. The opening came about when Robert Brown was appointed chief last April.

Kessler, whose salary was \$5,998, was one of three men on rotation for the position of police chief after Brown had been suspended and demoted to the rank of lieutenant two weeks ago. Brown, suspended by Mayor Raymond Steinmetz on charges of incompetence, has since been reinstated as ordered by the Troy Civil Service Commission.

The department is now operating with 10 patrolmen and officers, of which three have had charges filed against them since August.

The first man to be suspended was Gail Mourne, who was charged last year with insubordination when he refused to ride a motorcycle to check parking meters. He was reinstated.

Patrolmen Ronald Detrick and Lawrence Courtney were suspended Thanksgiving Day when they were involved in separate fights while off-duty. Detrick was reinstated.

Courtney was later discharged along with Patrolman Clinton Luttrell, on Municipal Court charges of consuming alcohol in an automobile and departmental charges of consorting with a married woman. Last week court charges were

changed to drunken driving by Dixon.

Five men took civil service tests for positions with the police department last Tuesday.

The resignation of Robert Hile and the firing of Luttrell and Courtney leave the department with seven patrolmen and three officers.

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Indicted Ex-Cop: 'Others Involved'

**By RICHARD SAPIR and
KERMIT VANDIVIER
Of The Troy News**

Paul Kessler, former Troy police Lieutenant charged with breaking and entry, told the Troy Daily News today that "other policemen are involved in this thing."

Kessler did not specify involvement' in what or which policemen he was talking about, but added that "it will all come out at the trial."

He was arrested Sept. 13 in Troy. An investigation of his house by Assistant City Solicitor Sam McAdow turned up keys to about 100 businesses in the Troy area.

McAdow said he also discovered two civil service exams, one for police chief, another for police lieutenant.

When informed of Kessler's statement today, Chief Robert Brown' said: "I don't know what to tell you."

McAdow, whose discovery of the keys and the documents

launched his prosecutor's probe, was unavailable for comment.

[The keys were actually found after he had been arrested and taken to the Police station. I heard him trying to flush them down the toilet.]

Kessler is free on \$2,000 bail, awaiting Grand Jury action.

He waived a preliminary hearing on the breaking and entry charge Sept. 29 in Troy Municipal Court. He was accused of breaking into Knife's Barber Shop Aug. 27.

Kessler resigned from the police force last year after pleading to a misdemeanor charge of concealing stolen goods. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail and fined \$150 in Troy Municipal Court.

He had admitted concealing \$72 worth of clothing taken from Longendelpher's Clothing Store. The clothing had been taken sometime after closing hours.'

The next morning, Kessler - on duty and in uniform - was seen by fellow officers removing the merchandise from behind a house on West Franklin Street. He was arrested (by Patrolman Max Younce), after having served on the force 20 years.

When picked up this September, Kessler was quoted as saying he did not know where he was or what he was doing. He was taken to Dettmer Hospital for mental observation.

Civil Service Exams for Lieutenant to be held

An examination will be held exams. March 13 to fill a vacancy for lieutenant in the Troy Police Department.

Chief Robert Brown said today three men are eligible to take the test. They are William King, Marvin Avey, and Max Younce.

The department is operating with two lieutenants instead of a full complement of three. The promotion of a third lieutenant will give the department an officer for each eight-hour work trick.

The two lieutenants are Donald Linder and Dean Matthews.

Applications for the examination must be turned in March 12. Brown said the examination will be based on material furnished in 12 reference books as in previous promotional exams.

Three patrolmen have been hired by Brown to start duties March 1. Appointments were given to Robert D. Price, 310 Miami St., and Harold E. Baker, 554 Summit Ave., both of Troy, and John R. Milligan, 416 Baker St., Pittsburg: Price and Baker were appointed Wednesday. Milligan was appointed Thursday.

The appointments bring the department up to 12 men, with the permanent department size established at 16.

Man guilty of window peeping admits to numerous burglaries.

A Troy man arrested by Troy police early Wednesday morning for window peeping has admitted committing a number of burglaries in Troy and Miami and Montgomery Counties.

The man, James A. Sanders, 25, 9 Armand Drive, told police he pleaded guilty' in Troy Municipal Court Wednesday to window peeping in the hope that his involvement in the burglaries would not be found out. He said when policemen Max Younce and Dean Matthews spotted him at the rear of 608 Lincoln Ave., at 4 a.m., Wednesday, he was not window peeping, but hiding from the police. cruiser after an unsuccessful attempt to break into Carl's Barbershop at 603 Garfield Ave.

Younce and Matthews said they connected Sanders with the burglary attempt at the barbershop after they spotted a claw hammer and a screw driver in his car. They said pry marks on a window in the barbershop indicated they were made with a claw hammer.

According to the police report, Sanders said he was trying to get into the barbershop to steal the air conditioner. He said his wife has asthma and had been after him to get an air

conditioner to ease her condition.

After failing to break into the barbershop, Sanders said he tried to remove the air conditioner from the outside. The cooling unit was damaged in the process. Police charged Sanders with malicious destruction of property. The man pleaded guilty in court this morning and drew a \$200 fine and a 10-day jail sentence. The jail sentence is to be served concurrently with the 10-day sentence he received yesterday for window peeping.

After questioning Sanders, police took him to his home, where he pointed out numerous other articles he said he had taken in burglaries since last October.

The loot included two power mowers, lawn furniture, carpentry tools, a BB gun, a croquet set, tire pump, and a wheelbarrow, as well as a hand ax, wrenches, and a claw hammer taken from McCrory's Variety Store in Sherwood Shopping Center.

Police, and Sgt. William Kiser, of the Sheriff's office, said the owners of some of the items have not been identified.

Kiser said Sanders admitted to six burglaries in Miami County and one in Montgomery County. Police said he admitted to six burglaries in Troy.

Sanders is employed as a ramp service man for Trans World Airlines in Vandalia. He said he was on his way to work

when he made the burglary attempt at the barbershop. He told police he never sold any of the loot he took.

Police said they found part of a cold meat sandwich under a window in the barbershop, indicating the intruder was eating his lunch while trying to break in.

Kiser and Police Chief Robert Brown each said their departments are continuing their investigation before deciding what other charges will be filed.

Note: Little did this criminal know that Patrolman Younce lived at the corner of Lincoln and Simpson, and was being dropped off at home after working his shift. That was why the cruiser was in the neighborhood, and he was spotted.

Auto Stalls: Police Help Outrun Stork

The tedium of the long hours in the Troy Police Station early this morning was broken at 4:08 a.m. when the phone rang shrilly.

It was, as officer Max Younce wrote in the call book later, a plea for help from "a lady in distress." Mrs. Andrew Smith, 118 1/2 N. Fourth St., Tipp City, and her husband were on their way to Dettmer Hospital. She was about to have a baby.

They were at the Bonded Oil station on West Main Street and their car had stopped running. Could someone take them the rest of the way?

Younce obliged. He climbed into the cruiser and sped off, wondering if he would beat the stork. He stopped at the service station, got Mr. and Mrs. Smith in the police car and headed with all haste to Dettmer. "We made it," he wrote in the call book later.

The baby, a boy, was born at exactly 5 a.m. Mother and child are doing well. There was no report on the car.

Was Only Playing 'Hide and Seek'

A 20-year-old Troy man, Charles H. Viney, was lodged in the Miami County Jail, after being pulled from a chimney at the H and W Appliance Company at 4:30 a.m. today.

Troy Police officers Lt. Robert Brown, and Officers Don Lindner, Paul Kessler, and Max Younce were called to the building after Roy Haning of 410 N. Elm St., Troy, one of the owners of the business, called headquarters, and reported that there was someone on the roof of the establishment.

Upon arrival of two cruisers from the police department, it was learned that someone had fallen into the chimney at the rear of the building.

After investigating, and finding that the man was about 30 feet down in the chimney, the Troy Fire Department was called, and the aerial ladder truck came to the rescue.

Firemen lowered looped

ropes, snagging the man, dragging him back up the chimney, where police officers and a sheriff's officer coming off patrol awaited him.

The man told officers that his name was Charles H. Viney of 901 Fountain Ave., Troy, and that he had fallen into the chimney while it was still daylight, yesterday. He was playing hide and seek with his sister's children, and became trapped in the chimney, he explained.

Disbelief in the man's story was registered by the local officers, however. They pointed out that the glove box of the appliance truck was ransacked, and the equipment from the box was found in a tarpaulin bag on the front seat of the truck.

Police speculated that Viney had climbed the television antenna, and attempted to climb down the chimney.

It was learned today by local officials that Viney has a previous record of six arrests, including a burglary offense in 1957, for which he was sent to the Ohio State Penitentiary. He is now on parole to Morris DeForge, the district parole officer, for that offense.

The investigation is being continued today by local law enforcement officials and charges are expected to be filed against the man soon.

Patrolmen Seize Moonshine

WAPAKONETA - - Two

State Patrol officers together with one state and one federal representative of the Division of Tobacco and Alcohol Division celebrated the transfer of James Fullenkamp to the Findlay post by pitching bottles of corn-liquor into a dump last night.

Samuel Cochran, Augusta, Ga., approached a road block with a load of what seemed to be produce.

When asked about his cargo, Cochran bolted and ran across the road and hid behind a telephone pole, where he was quickly taken into custody by patrolman, Max Younce, in charge of the weight check station.

On investigating the so-called produce, Younce discovered that the truck contained 300 gallons of Tennessee moonshine packed in half-gallon fruit jars.

State officials investigating the load of illegal whiskey said that the tax on the 300 gallons would have amounted to \$2,700.

One truck by-passed the road block and scurried north to deliver his load in the Michigan state line. Patrolmen in charge of the arrest think that this may be the start of breaking a bootlegging ring from Tennessee to Michigan.

Troy patrolman finishes course in fingerprinting.

Troy Patrolman Max Younce

returned last weekend from a three-week course in fingerprinting at the Bureau of Criminal Identification in London, Ohio.

Younce, who finished in the top sixth in a class of about 25, studied techniques for classifying prints and revealing latent prints.

[I and a man from the Cincinnati Police department were First, and Second in the class. Carl Poppe beat me out by one point. Of course, that is the top sixth.]

The course was held from May 6 through May 24.

Police Chief Robert Brown said another Troy policeman will attend a BCI course in criminal photography tentatively planned for July.

Robert Brown Tops List of Eligibles for Post of Police Chief

The Troy Civil Service Commission announced today that Lt. Robert Brown is the highest on the eligibility list for police chief.

Today's announcement ended more than 12 months of speculation about who would succeed John Hennessey in the top police department job. Chief Hennessey retired March 1, 1962. Since that time, the police chief's position has been occupied by the three

lieuteants in the department who alternated 30-day stints as acting police chiefs.

Brown, a 19-year veteran on the police force, was among the five who took the exam for police chief Feb. 12.

Wilfred Tremblay, chairman of the Troy Civil Service Commission said today that Patrolman Clinton Luttrell had received the highest exam score, but Luttrell asked his name be withdrawn from the eligibility list. The Civil Service Commission granted his request and Brown who received a few points less on the test, according to Tremblay, became the top man on the list. By law, the mayor is required to appoint the highest eligible man to the police chief post.

The Feb. 12 exam was the second given by the Civil Service Commission to find a police chief.

In the first test given April 11, 1962, Lt. Dean Matthews emerged the high scorer and was due to be named police chief. However before the appointment was made, four other policemen who took the test asked the Second District Court of Appeals to prohibit the Civil Service Commission from certifying Matthews as the man receiving the top grade because none of the final grades included ratings for efficiency.

In their court action, the four policemen - Lieutenants Brown and Donald Linder and Patrolmen Marvin Avey and

Paul Kessler said that the Civil Service Commission had received efficiency ratings from Service and Safety Director Homer Anderson and that if these ratings had been used, Linder would have received the high grade. On these grounds, the policemen asked not only that Matthews be banned from the police chief post, but that the Civil Service Commission be required to certify Linder as having received the highest grade.

The Court of Appeals considered the case for nine months before, issuing a decision last Jan. 9: Because efficiency ratings, which, are required by law, had not been used in grading the exam, the scores on the first test are void and that on the basis of those scores neither Matthews nor Linder could be appointed police chief. In its decision, the Court of Appeals added that the Civil Service Commission must establish some method of measuring efficiency and that ratings based on that method could be added to **EITHER THE GRADES RECEIVED IN THE FIRST TEST OR** to the scores from an entirely new exam.

AFTER CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES (See Author's Comment, pg. 142), the Civil Service Commission, which by that time had already set up a system for determining efficiency, decided to give a new exam.

Except for Matthews, all

those who took the first exam also took the second test.

Matthews, in the meantime, filed a notice of his intention to appeal the Court of Appeals ruling to the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court has not yet ruled

whether it will take the case. There is still a chance Matthews will become police chief, if the Supreme Court takes the case and if it reverses the Court of Appeals decision.

Author's Comment: The alternative could have been to add the efficiency ratings to Lt. Dean Matthew's highest score on the first exam, and certify him as chief. But, they knew he had appealed, and, probably, would not take a second exam. The result: a police chief who had neither the highest, or even second highest score on either exam, and was, later, suspended for incompetence but reinstated.

After the Judge's arrest, Chief Brown refused to type the affidavit, until I said, "Well, I'll just take this story down the street to the Troy Daily News, then." At Kessler's arrest, Brown tried to help his friend by listing only enough stolen goods to charge a misdemeanor. Kessler pled "Guilty" in Municipal Court, received a \$250 fine, and 10 days in jail. He, later, went to the Grand Jury for breaking and entering and concealing stolen goods. All this went on during my early years on the force and was my introduction to real life as a police officer. It certainly added to my contempt for crooked politicians, and dirty cops.

I, also, know the majority of law enforcement officers are 100% honest, and do their jobs, day or night, to protect the public without thought of their own safety. Most are underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated, in danger of assassination due to the political target on their backs. I thank God for them, and pray for their safety, daily.

Sincerely,

Dr. Max D. Younce, Pastor
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