

TEXT Gen. 9:1-7.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Although Capital Punishment (C.P.) is allowed by the constitution and is favored by a majority of Americans (80%) it has been sparingly practiced in recent years.

B. There are c.a. 23,000 homicides committed every year in the U.S.

C. Fewer than 300 lead to a death sentence.

D. Notice this quote from US News and World Report. "The Justice system dishes out death sentences a lot faster than it dishes out death. Some 300 convicts were sent to death row in 1989, ballooning the population to more than 2,300 in 35 states. The number executed in the same period: 16." 3366 July 1 2006

E. What does the Bible have to say about C.P.

BODY:

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT.

A. Before Law of Moses. (Capital punishment as old as the rainbow).

1. Gen. 9:1-7. V.6 **"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.**

2. Notice the reason why "For in the image of God He made man."

3. Alexander Campbell said "The reason given for slaying the murderer is one of perpetual validity. If it was ever good and obligatory, it must always be so. So long as it stands true that man was created in the image of God, so long will it bind every religious and moral people to take away the life of the murderer. It is, therefore, of immutable and perpetual obligation.

4. Or this from M.C. Kurfees. "The very same identical reason which God Himself assigned for the law on capital punishment exists today with all the force it had when He first assigned it. . . the conclusion is simply that God's law on capital punishment is still in force and will remain so while man as man remains on the earth. . ."

B. The Law Of Moses (Many crimes called for C.P. SUCH AS:)

1. Murder- Ex. 21:12.

2. Adultery- Lev. 20:10.

3. Homosexuality- Lev. 20:13.
4. Incest- Lev. 20:11-12.
5. Bestiality- Lev. 20:15-16.
6. Witchcraft- Lev. 20:27.
7. False Prophets- Deut. 18:20.
8. Kidnapping- Deut. 24:7.
9. Rape- Deut. 22:25-26.
10. Blasphemy, idolatry, breaking the Sabbath, etc.

C. Objections from the O.T.

1. Ex. 20:13. "Thou shalt not kill."
2. Some have said this ruled out the death penalty.

a. Next chapter 21:12. **"He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.**

b. All killing is not murder just as all sexual relations are not fornication.

3. Ex. 20:13 "You shall do no murder."

II. NEW TESTAMENT: "God authorized C.P. then and there is no evidence He changed it in the N.T."

A. Rom. 13:1-4.

1. Civil government is ordained of God for the proper regulation of society.
2. This does not mean all in government are children of God or that God is pleased with all that they do.

3. Notice this quote again from Alexander Campbell: "The Bible has sanctioned republics and commonwealths and kingdoms w/o affixing any peculiar name to them. It prescribes no form of human government because no one form of government would suit all the countries climes and people of the earth. But the Bible, in the name and by the authority of it's Author, demands of all persons in authority that they protect the innocent, that they punish the guilty and that they dispense justice to all."

B. Paul- Acts 25:11.

1. Paul could have argued against the death penalty.
2. He said instead- Acts 25:8.
3. Festus then found- Acts 25:25.

C. Pilate Said to Jesus- Jn. 19:10.

1. Jesus did not argue the point.
2. Jn. 19:11.

D. 1 Pet. 2:13-17.

III. A DETERRENT TO EVIL.

A. One impelling motive for doing right to the Christian is the certain punishment for wrong doing.

1. Heb. 2:2-3.
2. 2 Cor. 5:11.

B. Many say D.P. is not a deterrent to evil.

1. May be true the way it is done.
2. Ecc. 8:11 **Because the 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.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. God expects us to have the proper respect for human life.
- B. The D.P. is for our own good.
- C. The Death Penalty is the end punishment for Non-Christian.
 1. Rev. 20:11-15.