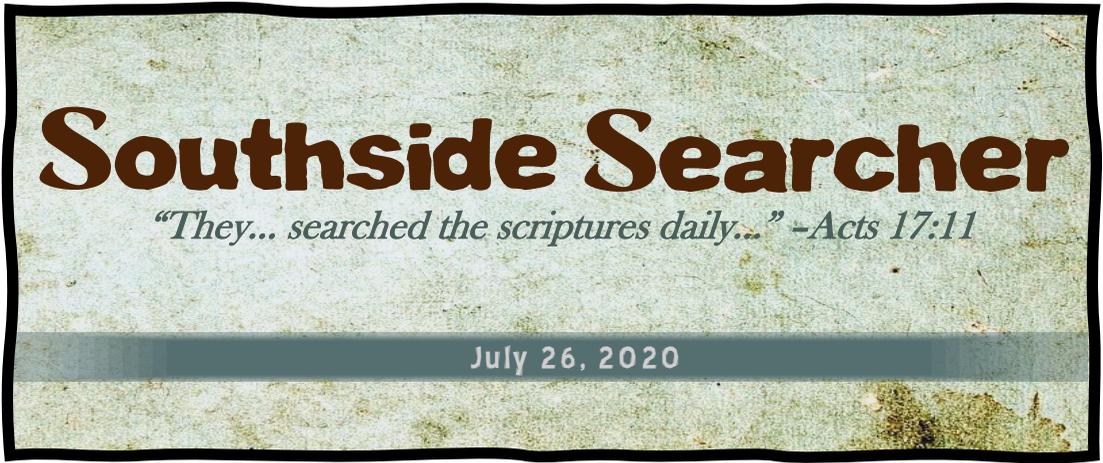


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson Reading: Mark 15:6-15 ➤ Song Leader.....Eli Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scripture Reading... Reading: ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Lord's Supper..... <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel</u>: Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe</u>: Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin</u>: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith</u>: Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized</u>: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful</u>: Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p>
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We're Like Barabbas

BARABBAS MAY NOT BE A bible character that we think of often. He is, however, mentioned in all four of the gospels. You might take a few moments to read Matthew 27:15-26, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:13-25, and John 18:39-40.

Consider Barabbas and his sin. Matthew called him a “notorious prisoner” (Matthew 27:16). Mark said he committed murder in the rebellion (Mark 15:7). That made him a rebel and a murderer. Like Mark, Luke identified Barabbas as a rebel and a murderer (Luke 23:18-19). John added that Barabbas was a “robber” (John 18:39-40). Barabbas committed sin—just like us.

Consider Barabbas and his situation. Barabbas was in prison for his crimes. And he was likely set to be crucified. He was on death row. What must have been going through his head? Was he repentant? Was he contemplating his eternity? Was he pondering various philosophies of the afterlife? We have no idea. But there is one thing we know - he was in prison for the sins he had committed—just like us.

Consider Barabbas and his substitute. Barabbas must have been shocked at the outcome of his situation. He probably knew about the custom to set a prisoner free. But it is doubtful that he ever thought it would happen to him. He surely viewed his situation as utterly hopeless. But Jesus became his substitute. Because of Jesus he was set free. Does that sound familiar? In fact, it's just like us. We were lost in our sins. We were in prison—slaves of sin (Romans 6:17-18). Barabbas was sentenced to die, and so were we. But like Barabbas, Jesus died in our place. The wages we deserved was death, but God's gift changed all of that (Romans 6:23). We became free through our obedience to the gospel (Romans 6:17). How about you? Have you been baptized to have your sins washed away by the blood of Christ? (Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5). –

-Michael Pickford
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Capital Punishment Under The Law Of Moses

Three executions took place by lethal injection last week at the Federal Corrections Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana. Daniel Lewis Lee was executed Tuesday, July 14, Wesley Ira Purkey was executed Thursday, July 16 and Dustin Lee Honken was executed Friday, July 17. This was the first time the federal government carried out capital punishment since 2003. Thus, many have the question of capital punishment on their minds at this time.

The basic underlying reason why the Lord commanded capital punishment under the law of Moses was because man is made in the image of God (Gen. 9:5-6). As long as the principle that man is made in the image of God lasts — that’s how long the rule of Genesis 9:5-6 stands.

SINS WHICH DEMANDED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Murder (Gen. 9:5-6; Num. 35:16-21; 30-33; Dt. 17:6; 19:11-13). Adultery (Lev. 20:10; Dt. 22:24). Incest (Lev. 20:11-14). Bestiality (Ex. 22:19; Lev. 20:15-16). Sodomy (Lev. 20:13). Incontinence (Dt. 22:21-24). Rape (Dt. 22:25-26). Perjury (Zech. 5:4). Kidnapping (Ex. 21:16; Dt. 24:7). Fornication (Lev. 21:9). Witchcraft (Ex. 22:18). Offering human sacrifice (Lev. 20:2-5). Striking or cursing father or mother (Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9). Disobedience to parents (Dt. 21:18-21). Theft (Zech. 5:3-4). Blasphemy (Lev. 24:11-14, 16, 23). Sabbath breaking (Ex. 35:2; Num. 15:32-36). Prophesying falsely or propagating false doctrine (Dt. 13:1-10). Sacrificing to false gods (Ex. 22:20). Refusing to abide by the decision of the court (Dt. 17:12). Treason (1 Ki. 2:25; Est. 2:23). Violation of law concerning oxen (Ex. 21:28-29).

WAYS OF EXECUTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Burning (Gen. 38:24; Lev. 20:14; 21:9; Jer. 29:22; Ezek. 23:25; Dan. 3:19-23). Stoning (Lev. 20:2, 27; 24:14; Num. 14:10; 15:33-36; Dt. 13:10; 17:5; 22:21, 24; Josh. 7:25). Hanging (Gen. 40:22; Dt. 21:22-23; Josh. 8:29). Beheading (Mt. 14:10; Mk. 6:16, 27-28). Crucifixion (Mt. 27:35, 38; Mk. 15:24, 27; Lk. 23:33). Sword or spear (Ex. 19:13).

MANNER OF EXECUTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Executed by the witnesses (Dt. 13:9; 17:7). Executed by the congregation (Num. 15:35-36; Dt. 13:9). Executed not on the testimony of less than two witnesses (Num. 35:30; Dt. 17:6; 19:15). Executed speedily (Eccl. 8:11; Lev. 10:1-2; 2 Sam. 6:3-7).

ACCIDENTAL KILLING AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Under the law of Moses, God made provision to spare the life of one who had killed “unawares” or accidentally (Num. 35:9-29). God provided six cities of refuge (Num. 35:13). The manslayer could flee to one of these six cities of refuge for safety and protection (Num. 35:15). The individual who had killed “unawares” was to remain in the city of refuge until he stood before the congregation in judgment (Num. 35:12, 26-28).

The New Testament laws concerning capital punishment are somewhat different from those of the law of Moses. The agency through which capital punishment is carried out has changed (Rom. 13:1-7).

-John Edwards

Capital Punishment Under The Law Of Christ

Since church and state are separate in the New Testament, the laws regulating capital punishment differ from those of the Old Testament. This study takes a look at what the New Testament has to say about capital punishment.

JESUS AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. Pilate said, “... *knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above*” (Jn. 19:10-11). It can be seen from this passage that Jesus recognized and approved capital punishment.

PAUL. The apostle Paul knew that capital punishment was one of the powers of the government when he said, “*For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die...*” (Acts 25:11). Had Paul thought that capital punishment was wrong, he would have objected on this occasion. He did not.

THE HIGHER POWERS. Romans 13:1-7 teaches capital punishment as Paul wrote these words concerning the powers ordained of God: “*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*” (v. 4). A sword is a weapon of death to be used to punish the evil doer. When a governmental agency practices capital punishment, he is acting as a minister of God.

GOD’S WILL. It is “*the will of God*” that the “*ordinance of man*” like “*kings or governors are sent for the punishment of evildoers*” as well as

“*for the praise of them that do well...*” (1 Pet. 2:13-15). No one likes the thought of capital punishment, but if this country is going to reduce violent crime, capital punishment is going to have to be practiced. One of the problems of our system today is “*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*” (Eccl. 8:11). Capital punishment may be one of the solutions to our overcrowded prisons!

DEATH. The penalty for sin has always been death. Adam and Eve were told concerning the eating of the “*tree of the knowledge of good and evil: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die...*” (Gen. 2:16-18). “*Every man shall be put to death for his own sin...*” are the words of Deuteronomy 24:16. Paul said, “*For the wages of sin is death...*” (Rom. 6:23). Sin will bring spiritual death to those who practice it. Although one may not receive the death penalty in this life for his evil deeds, ultimately, he will receive a “*just recompense of reward*” (Heb. 2:2).

-Johnie Edwards

**Both articles on Capital Punishment came from the church of Christ at Terre Haute’s bulletin – The Terre Haute Speaker, July 19, 2020, Volume 9, #29,