

The Death Penalty

Some years ago the United States Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as unconstitutional. Many arguments by many people were used by the opponents and proponents of the death penalty. Those who argued for it did so using moral and Biblical points to support this position. The opponents used human reasoning, part of which was the claim that capital punishment is cruel and inhuman treatment, and that no offense warranted it. Since that time, states wishing to reinstate the death penalty have had an uphill battle. In some states the death penalty is again law, but only for certain crimes. When a criminal is convicted and sentenced to die, there are so-called public interest individuals and groups who do their best to have the death sentence overturned. The process is long and costly; our judicial system is weakened and the criminal exalted. The forces of Satan have done their job well in weakening the judicial system and the abolishing of the death penalty. In spite of Satanic efforts, there remains a judicial system and death penalty that cannot and will not be changed. Please allow me to explain.

God created everything that exists (Gen. 1:1; John 1:3), all of which shows His glory (Psa. 19:1). He is holy (Isa. 63; Rev. 15:4), righteous (Psa. 145:17), and perfect (Deut. 32:4; Matt. 5:48). Since God is the Creator of all, and is holy, righteous and perfect, it is understandable then that He should hate sin and the curse which it has brought on His creation. Sin, simply put, is trespassing against God regardless of the act or by whom committed. The act which introduced sin into the world was not murder, rape, stealing, abortion, adultery, homosexuality, child molesting or any other gross deed, all of which are sin. The act which brought sin into the world was that of disobedience. It was Adam who disobeyed God by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden (Gen. 3). This one sin committed by Adam brought upon all of mankind a sin nature and a curse, the result of which is death— that is, physical death and eternal separation from God and damnation in Hell (Rom. 5:12; Rev. 21:8). Because God is holy and righteous, He must punish sinful man.

But God, in His love for the eternal souls of men, made a provision whereby he could escape an eternal Hell. The escape came in the person of God's Son Jesus Christ, who as our substitute, bore in His own body on the Cross of Calvary, the penalty for our sins by shedding His blood and dying ((Isa.. 53; Heb. 9; 10:12). He was buried and three days later was bodily raised from the grave by God the Father (Acts 2:23,24; 3:14,15; 10:39,40). Just as the sin of disobedience by Adam brought the curse of death (physical and spiritual) to all of mankind, so too, the death of Christ as full and final payment makes salvation and eternal life possible for all who accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour (Rom.. 6:23; I John 2:2). Those who reject Christ as Saviour are already condemned by God (John 3:18,36) and will surely spend eternity in Hell (read Revelation, chapters 20-22). There is no authority to appeal the case to, for there is none higher than God Himself, and He has already given the verdict — all that remains is the carrying out of the sentence.

Will you this day receive God's offer of a full pardon? To do so, acknowledge to God that you are a sinner, and by faith believing ask for forgiveness and for Jesus Christ to save you for all eternity on the basis of His own shed blood. FAITH — Forsaking All I Trust Him. It's not a head knowledge, but from the heart — a total reliance on Christ. Salvation comes from God, and by believing on Christ you may know that you have eternal life (I John 5:11-13).

The evidence is in - I pray that you will receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. — TODAY!

-Richard A. Ciarrocca © 2006