

"CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - YES OR NO?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

There have been numerous debates on the subject of "Capital Punishment". That is - punishing the law-breaker by death. Taking his or her life for taking the life of another, or for serious crimes such as kidnapping or rape.

Some have concluded that for our **Justice System** to exercise Capital Punishment is unjust and cruel, and should never be carried out. In the earlier days of our country's history it was common for people to be hanged in public executions. However, in latter days groups such as the ACLU (America Civil Liberties Union) have pressured the legislatures to "go soft" on convicted criminals. Thus, today we have numerous individuals, who are repeated killers and abusers of innocent people, who have been kept incarcerated for over twenty years.

As they sit in their cells and complain about the facilities, which makes the modern prison look like a resort center compared to yesteryear, the American tax payer is punished with a bill for their "keep" to the tune of \$30,000 plus yearly.

The Bible addresses Capital Punishment in numerous places and

for numerous crimes, of which some are:

- 1) Murder (Gen. 9:4,5)
- 2) Kidnapping (Ex. 21:16)
- 3) Cursing parents (Ex. 21:17)
- 4) Killing a baby by causing a miscarriage (Ex.21:22,23)
- 5) Sex with an animal (Ex. 22:19)
- 6) Incest, homosexuality, adultery, and many types of sex crimes (Lev. 18:6-23)
- 7) Rape (Deut. 22:25)

Even the sixth of the Lord's Ten Commandments states that "Thou shalt not murder" (Ex. 20:13). In Acts 5:1-11 God exercised the "Death Penalty" upon a disobedient married couple. The apostle Paul states in Acts 25:11 that he believed in the "Death Penalty". Romans 13:1-7 teaches that civil government must carry out proper punishment on evil doers. It is taught in the Word of God that Capital Punishment should be quick (Eccles. 8:11), and that it at least matches the crime (Lev. 24:19), and that it should be performed publicly, and thus - would serve as a deterrent to others (Deut. 21:18-21).

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association

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