

IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SCRIPTURAL? TODAY?

Intro. No one executed in US since June 2, 1967. Sup Ct ruled in May 71 that jury that convicts and sent OK. 2 congressmen intro bill to stay all exec 2 yrs hoping Ct will outlaw cap pun. Cap pun-death pen for crime. Theoo will decide since involves life and eath.

I. The Current Debate

- A. Ag -- 1. Cannot be harmonized with love of God. Jesus sa forgive. 2. Cannot be administered fairly. 3. Dignity and worth of society, "great nation".
- B. For -- 1. not to sides with evil. 2. Shows more regard for criminal than victim. 3. encourages crime. 4. weakens justice. 5. ag Script.

II. The Teaching of Script. May be diff opinion but can't dis. intelligently without knowing what Scrip says.

- A. Gen 9:6. Principle clear. Reason-sanctity of human life, bec in image of God. For race bec Noah new head and like meat. Manner of exec not desc. *OK to use. See below*
- B. Mosaic Law. Gen 9 only for murder. Law for list of off. Working sabb, cursing parents, adultery, incest, sodomy, idolatry, rape, kidnapping, incorr juv del (Deut 21:1 false prop. Stoning or burning, or something else.
- C. John 8:1-11. 1. X rec Law commanded stoning of adult. 7 2. X declined bec He forgave and only one who could. 3. If abolished then only for adultery, unless rest of NT abolishes by extending His conduct.

- D. Rom 13:1-7. 1. Govt ordained of God, 1. 2. To be obeyed bec opposes evil, 4, and conscience says, 5. 3. right of taxation, 6-7. 4. right to use force, 4. Phrases which follow in 10; 12:17, 21 are to individuals.

What is sword? Policemans' pistol. Living-The policeman is sent by God to ehlp you." Officer can bear arms but no right to issue death pen. But prob does mean that bec special sword-large knife with bent blade similar to sabre. Weapon which emperor and prefects carried as sign of their power of life and death. Worn in provinces by magistrates who had right of cap pun. Borne in pub processions. Can't exclude kind of punishment which sword represents from right to punish. If so, taxation only right, but no \$\$. Right in NT If right not used. Slavery not cond in NT. Not unscrip or unX to take life of criminal, May be unnecc. *NO*

III. Some questions. Ex 20:13. Vb means murder. NT trans too Gen 9:6 applicable today. If not abrogated. Not part of law Prof law enforcemtn say it is a deterrent. Without it sword of govt sheathed.

*Rom 13 + Gen 9 = Cap for murder at least. If for other crimes
Then why if govt so disinterested.*