

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill  
Servers - Gary Addison  
Lannie Key  
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Linda Lawrence

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Capital Punishment



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**As a juror, how should a Christian consider capital punishment?**

By Kevin Cauley

The basic idea behind capital punishment is that it is the government that is imposing the punishment on individuals in society that have failed to respect the laws of our society. However, the term " capital punishment " has come to refer to a sentence and ultimate execution of death to the guilty individual. Does a Christian have the authority to sentence someone to death?

Before we further answer this question, let’s look at it from a different perspective. Does the government have the authority from God to sentence someone to death? The answer to that question is a most definite, “Yes.” In Romans 13:1-4 we read, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 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”. The phrase “he beareth not the sword in vain” implies that God has authorized the government to use the sword as a means of punishment to those that do wrong. A sword is not an instrument of punishment with which you want to come into contact. Both edges are usually sharp and it is designed to seriously incapacitate and or kill one’s enemy. The implication is that if God allows the government to use the sword for the purpose of incapacitation or death, then the government has the right to punish evil doers by means of death. Peter also makes some significant statements along this line in 1 Peter 2:13-14. We read, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well”. This passage says that individual rulers in the government are sent by God for the punishment of evil doers. So not only does the government as a whole have a right to punish evil doers, but individuals within the government have the right to punish evil doers. Is this punishment merely up to the sentence of death or does it include the sentence of death?

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Billy Box: undergoing therapy for recent hip replacement surgery, please be praying that he can have a quick and full recovery

Faye Cotton: has stopped taking treatments for now; please be praying that she will regain her strength and defeat this cancer

Denise Kimbrell: has completed her treatments; please be praying that cancer will not return

Mary Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please be praying that she makes a full and quick recovery

Lellie Dickinson: is recovering from knee surgery and torn ligaments in her knee, please be praying for a full and quick recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Bill Foster: his health has improved and will be able to have aorta valve replacement soon, please be praying that his health continues to improve

Danielle Taylor: recovering from recent spinal surgery, please pray that she makes a full recovery

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: is at home, please pray that she can regain her strength, and continue her fight against cancer

Barb Lemay: friend of Christie & Aaron, from the Midway congregation – she has advanced colon cancer; please be praying that treatments will help

Dean Key: is fighting a case of shingles, let us be praying that with medicine that the shingles will quickly clear up and that she will have no further trouble

**Upcoming Events**

Today	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Nursing Home {Winfield}	2:00 pm

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Lucas Dunnigan: leukemia cells are showing signs of growth, please pray that the doctors will be able to treat this successfully

Deborah Box: did find a small blood clot, please be praying that medicine will take care of this clot and there will be no further problems

Kay Dodd: has started treatments and will take them through November, please be praying that the treatments will defeat this cancer

Samuel Walker: having some heart problems, please be praying that he will receive help for this problems

Judd Tucker: recovering from a collapsed lung, please pray that he makes a full recovery and that there will be no more problems

Don Lawrence: is recovering from recent procedure to clear blockage in his carotid artery, let us pray that he will have no further problems

Rebert Corkren: diagnosed with lung cancer, please be praying that he will receive the help needed defeat this cancer

There are some additional principles under the Old Covenant that may help us understand this concept a little better. First of all we read in Exodus 21:23-25 “And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” The principle that God is trying to get across in this passage is that the punishment should fit the crime. In other words, you wouldn’t put a person to death for purposely stepping on someone’s toes. At the same time you wouldn’t just slap someone on the wrist for murdering their fellow man. The punishment for the crime committed must be equivalent, at least in physical response, to the crime itself. In the times of the New Testament, the Jewish people had basically turned this passage of scripture into a justification for revenge. This is not what was originally intended by the thoughts that were presented in the Mosaic Law. Jesus, however, in refutation of the Rabinnical traditions, quotes their use of it as a justification for revenge and then refutes the idea that the man of God is to harbor thoughts of revenge in his heart. We read in Matthew 5:38,39 “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” Don’t lash out in revenge against someone who would do you wrong. This is the attitude that the Christian should have as well. It is not our place to go seeking revenge against everyone who has done us wrong or wrought evil against us in our life. Paul also writes in Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

Now, we can answer the question as stated above. First, the Christian when serving on a Jury is acting as an officer for the government and on the government’s behalf. The Bible clearly teaches that such an officer can and must exercise punishment upon those who do wrong. Second, when punishment is exercised it should fit the crime that was committed. It should not merely be a slap on the wrist. So if the crime involved death, then the punishment should involve death as well. Third, as an individual, the Christian, though acting as an officer of the government, has no right to harbor thoughts of revenge in his or her heart. Based upon these three things, therefore, the Christian is authorized by God to sentence a person to death when acting as part of the function of the government (i.e. in a jury) provided that the Christian does not harbor any thoughts of revenge in their heart for the person sentenced. In other words, it is not the Christian’s individual desperate desire for this person to be put to death, but because this person has committed a crime, then justice demands that he/she answer for this crime in a just way. This is how a Christian, as a juror, should consider capital punishment. As always, if there resides in the heart of the individual unwillingness due to conscience sake not to participate in the sentencing of an individual to death, then the Christian should abstain (Romans 14:23). However, let the Christian voice this thought prior to the jury selection process so that a just and fair result may prevail.

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**If I Could Just Start Over!**

By Gary C. Hampton

Most people have wished for a “do-over,” but once the mistake is made, we have to learn to live with it. Those reaching the point of knowing the difference between right and wrong will choose to do wrong at times (Romans 3:10, 23).

The good news is that Jesus made it possible for us to be delivered from eternal death (Romans 7:24-25). Anyone can be a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). His blood was shed for man’s redemption (Ephesians 1:7). He shed it in His death on the cross (John 19:31-35).

Paul explained how one can reach Christ’s death and the cleansing blood found there. “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4).

Those baptized into Christ have been cleansed from their past sins (Acts 2:38), but they still need to be on guard against temptation (James 1:13-15). Denying that we have any problem with sin is really not an option. John said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Thankfully, the Father has provided the solution. “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).

Do not waste your time claiming to be perfect. Turn to Jesus, be washed in His blood and have all of your old sins removed (Acts 2:38). Stay on guard against sin, knowing that you can confess your sins in the assurance that God is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9). He has lovingly provided the means for starting over.

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**Help me, Jesus!**

By Mark N. Posey

The writer of Hebrews said, “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to succor [aid] those who are tempted” (2:18). When we experience difficulty here on earth, we have a Savior who will help. He is not merely a spectator; He has participated in human life on earth (John 1:14; Philippians 2:7). He has been through the human experience. Now, He is in Heaven at the right hand of God to help (aid) His people. How does He help us?

Jesus helps us by delivering us from sin (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus helps us by His example (1 Peter 2:21; Philippians 2:5).

Jesus helps us by His teachings (Matthew 7:29).

Jesus helps us through Gospel promises (John 14:3).

Jesus helps us through His attitude of care and mercy (Heb. 2:17; 1 Pt. 5:6-7).

Jesus helps us through His intercession on our behalf (Heb. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 John 2:1).

Now, what kind of problem do you have? Just name the problem! Do you suffer under the guilt of sin? Are you under the pressure of some specific temptation? Have you been trying to serve God through the doctrines and commandments of men? Are you having trouble coping with daily pressures of life—physical, emotional or domestic pain?

You cannot name any problem that Jesus cannot help you handle! This doesn’t mean He will suddenly make all of your troubles go away. Remember, there will be storms (Matthew 7:24-27), but with Him at your side, you will survive. Come to Him in obedience and stay there; He will help!

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