



Oologah  
**Observer**

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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## Capital Punishment?

Chuck Northrop

Citizens have a responsibility to their respective governments. To the Romans, Paul wrote, “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” (Romans 13:1). Peter also wrote, “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” (1 Peter 2:13-14). Most people recognize their responsibilities to government and to obey the laws of the land. In reference to this, an often-asked question arises concerning capital punishment: “Can we support capital punishment or vote for a candidate who supports capital punishment?” As with all questions of this nature, it must be answered in light of the holy Scriptures and not in “I think...” or “I believe...” So, “what saith the Scriptures?”

From 1 Peter 2:13-14, government exists for two reasons: “for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” This is further explained in Romans 13:2 which says, “Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” Not only do the inspired writers reveal the purpose governments serve, they reveal two reasons for obeying governing authorities: first, to avoid punishment and, second, “for conscience sake,” because to resist the government is to resist the ordinance of God. Please notice this fact: punishment is and should be a deterrent to crime. In verse 4, Paul continued, “For he [i.e. the person in governmental

authority - CN] 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. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” In other words, governments are God’s ministers or servants for the avenging of “wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

One way in which ancient governments inflicted punishment was by the sword. The sword was and continues to be an emblem or symbol of authority to inflict the death penalty. The sword is a useless tool for anything other than personal protection and/or to inflict wounds upon another person. Because this passage says, “for he (the government) beareth not the sword in vain,” the Bible clearly teaches capital punishment.

There should be no doubt in any Bible student’s mind: under the law of Moses the death penalty was demanded for many offenses. It should also be understood, the death penalty was given before the law of Moses. In Genesis 9:6 God said to Noah, “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

In actuality, capital punishment is for the betterment of society. It is a deterrent to crime, and it protects people from further injuries due to the wickedness of a criminal who has been put to death. More importantly, it is how God revenges “him that doeth evil.” The Bible teaches, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Romans 12:19). Capital punishment is God’s wrath upon evil doers carried out through His servants — the governments.

Therefore, God has sanctioned the death penalty in the Patriarchal age, in the Mosaic age, and in the New Testament age. We not only have the right to support capital punishment, we have the obligation and responsibility to support and defend what God teaches in His word: for governing authorities “beareth not the sword in vain.”

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## Women and the Home

Jeremy Northrop

Oftentimes, the roles different ones play in various contexts are skewed by culture. Some of the most vivid examples in the United States are the roles of various members of the home. The Bible teaches “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). For a moment, consider what the Bible says concerning the role of women as daughters, wives, and mothers in the home.

Primarily the role of daughters would be included in the role of all children. Paul instructed, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’” (Ephesians 6:1-3). In Ephesians 6:3, Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 5:16. He indicates the command for children to obey their parents in an age-lasting command — it was a command in the Old Testament and now is a command in the New Testament. A good example of a daughter by marriage is Ruth. As Naomi was preparing to leave Moab and return to Bethlehem (the place of her origin), her daughter-in-law, Ruth, made a vow to return with her and to be with her until death (Ruth 1:16-17). The principle is clear: children have a responsibility to their parents. They are to take care of their parents as they age (cf. 1 Timothy 5:4).

In 1 Peter 3:1-2, Peter tells how wives are to treat their husbands. In this case, he is appealing to the wives of unbelieving husbands. He says, “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” One way a believing wife can win her husband to the Lord is by submitting to him as the Bible instructs and by setting a good example for him. In Colossians 3:18-21, Paul gives further instructions for each person of the home. For the wives, he simply says, “...submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” In Proverbs 31:10-31, the mother of King Lemuel taught him what kind of qualities to search for in a wife. Among other things, she said a virtuous wife has “worth far above rubies,” and “She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household.” She goes on to say, she clothes her household and speaks words of wisdom. Finally, she says a “...woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” There is much to learn about God’s woman of the home in Proverbs 31.

Titus 2:3-5 says, “...the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” Paul’s instructions are for older women in the church to help the younger women in their walk with God. A godly mother will teach her children things about God and His creation, Jesus and His church, and the Bible and its teachings.

At the present time, the United States needs – desperately needs – women who will choose to be God’s women. The country needs women who will show care and compassion for others while not taking advantage of others for personal gain. She needs women who will choose to be keepers of the home, not the expense account. She needs women who will raise children to put God, not money, first. The world needs women who will be virtuous, not selfish.

Observations and Concerns

August 2, 2023

Welcome Visitors! Please be sure and aware you are greatly appreciated.

Praise in Psalm: “I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works” (Psalm 9:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: In your prayers this week, please remember to give thanks for the faithful works within the brotherhood, both domestic and abroad.

Summer Series — This evening’s speaker is Donnie Nero. He is the local preacher in Weleetka. His topic is “Behold, We Count Them Happy Which Endure” (James 5:11).

Men’s Business Meeting is Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, after the evening service.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ Jim Allison has a spot on his lung. His doctors are hoping to schedule a biopsy soon.
- ▶ Dan Dennis is scheduled to have his port removed this week.
- ▶ Ed Dindy, father of Tia Swearingen, met with his oncologist this week. He will be having another MRI in a few months to determine a plan for moving forward with cancer treatments.
- ▶ Yvonne Hall, who has been visiting with us recently, was ill this past Lord’s Day.
- ▶ AJ Huckleby, husband of Stephanie Huckleby, fell twice and injured his head and leg.
- ▶ Betty Jackson, sister-in-law of Doyle and Dicie and daughter-in-law of Walter, fell recently and is in rehab in Owasso.
- ▶ Mark Odell, cousin of Nelda Hudson, suffered a fall recently that resulted in facial injuries and two broken shoulders. He is recovering at a rehab center.
- ▶ Fred Phillips is in a hospital in Fairfax with kidney issues, a broken hip, and other problems.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Aug. 2	Sunday, Aug. 6 AM	Sunday, Aug. 6 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Russ Earl	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper		Chuck Northrop	
	Lesson	Donnie Nero	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik	Chris Nelson
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	9:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	10:30 AM			
Worship . . . . .	5:00 PM			
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . . .	7:00 PM			
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