

# Should murderers be supported at taxpayers' expense? (28:17)

A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him.

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## THE TEXT (NASB)

A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him.

*A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.  
KJV - Proverbs 28:17*

## INTRODUCTION



Financial **support** for those who maliciously and deliberately kill any innocent person is misguided compassion and a waste of money.

According to the Edmonton Sun, as of March 2014, it costs taxpayers over \$151,000 per year to house each of Canada's worst inmates.<sup>1</sup>

Any jurisdiction that ignores the text is wasting its resources. How should governments handle convicted murders from a financial perspective?



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## COMMENTARY

All killing is not the same. People are not the same as insects, birds or animals. The text specifies the type of blood being shed—**human blood**. Unlike the Darwinian, the Hindu, and the Animist perspectives, the Bible puts a very high value on people, compared with other living beings. Animal blood is not human blood. Mankind is unique, made in the image of God. Thus an attack on an innocent human being is akin to an attack on God himself.

### Innocence and Guilt



Furthermore, there is a big difference between killing innocent humans and killing the guilty. The text describes a man **who is laden with the guilt of** human blood. Guilt is described as an invisible burden or a load to be carried. “Murder” is defined by Webster’s dictionary as “the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of another person.” “Manslaughter” is defined as “the killing of a human being by another when unlawful, especially when unlawful but without malice.” “Kill” is defined as “to cause the death of or to slay another.”

### Murder versus Manslaughter

What makes murder unique? Why does murder warrant the death penalty whereas manslaughter and killing do not? *Murder is motivated by hatred. It is not accidental.* It is the evil, premeditated intent which is very wicked in the eyes of God. He commands that those who act out such evil be terminated. They should be removed from planet earth. Those convicted of first degree murder should be executed; they *should not be sent to life in prison at taxpayers’ expense.*

### Murder Attacks God



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The **death** penalty for murderers was given by God first to Noah, perhaps because of the amount of interpersonal evil and violence before the flood. Capital punishment for murder was God's most significant command after the flood. We read, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God, He [God] made man." Refer to the context in Genesis 9:5-6.

God loves man! God hates the destruction of man. God forbids murder. God sets the highest penalty against the unwarranted killing of a fellow human being—death to the killer—whether the killer was a man or an animal. God wants to keep human killing under God's control alone. Therefore in the Bible we find instances when God condones and even commands human killing, but not killing based on human initiative.

## Repeated Often for Emphasis

God's command to execute murderers is repeated an *incredible 13 times* in the Mosaic Law. I have boldfaced the command for capital punishment.

He who strikes a man so that he dies **shall surely be put to death**. Exodus 21:12

If, however, a man acts presumptuously toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him *even* from My altar, **that he may die**. Exodus 21:14

If a man takes the life of any human being, **he shall surely be put to death**. Leviticus 24:17

But if he struck him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death**. If he struck him down with a stone in the hand, by which he will die, and *as a result* he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death**. Or if he struck him with a wooden object in the hand, by which he might die, and *as a result* he died, he is a murderer; **the murderer shall surely be put to death**. The blood avenger himself shall **put the murderer to death**; he shall **put him to death** when he meets him. Numbers 35:16-19

Or if he struck him down with his hand in enmity, and *as a result* he died, **the one who struck him shall surely be put to death**, he is a murderer; the blood avenger **shall put the murderer to death** when he meets him. Numbers 35:21

If anyone kills a person, **the murderer shall be put to death** at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, **you shall not take**



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**ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.** Numbers 35:30-31

Then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, **that he may die. You shall not pity him**, but you shall purge the blood of the innocent from Israel, that it may go well with you. Deuteronomy 19:12-13

God is being crystal clear. He wants no pity for murderers. There are different uses of a Hebrew word, which is often translated as “kill,” but may refer to accidental manslaughter, justifiable homicide, assassination and military termination. Some types of killing God allows and even commands; others God strictly forbids. God knows everything, mere mortals do not.

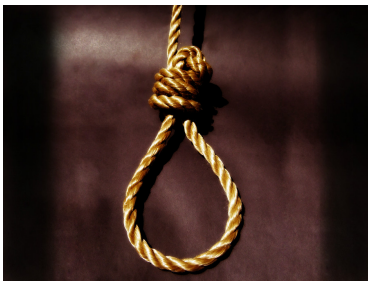
## Must Have Certainty

But what if the evidence for first degree murder is inconclusive? What if there is some reasonable doubt? If there is reasonable doubt despite all efforts by the justice system then capital punishment, because of its irreversible nature, may be rejected. Every case is unique and requires the utmost judicial prudence.

## Translation: *Support*

The Hebrew word for *support*, תָּמַךְ (t?•m??, pronounced “tah-mak”), means “to take hold of” or “support.” t?•m?? is used in Exodus 17:12 when Aaron and Hur supported Moses’ hands to keep him praying. It means what it says—giving someone else physical assistance. Speaking of support for murder or the killing of the innocent, abortion should NOT be supported by government. Instead the government should make adoption much easier.

## Misguided Mercy and Money



Those who think that it is nobler to let a murderer live not only disdain the moral laws of God, but also devalue the life of the victim. From a financial perspective, governments who are soft on crime waste taxpayers’ money. The death penalty for first degree murder was commonplace in North America and Europe for hundreds of years, however, in the twentieth century it was slowly abolished, in most First World countries, those same countries that are for the most part, now deeply in debt. The last execution in Canada was on December 11, 1962 at Toronto’s Don Jail.



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Ironically due to extensive legal wrangling, especially in the USA, it may actually cost more to follow through on an execution than to keep a convicted prisoner incarcerated for the rest of his life. There is much debate on this topic, especially in the latter part of the 20th century. It is no longer politically correct to administer capital punishment.

In July 2018 Pope Francis officially changed the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on the death penalty. According to the Vatican it is "inadmissible, because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." Pope Francis acknowledged that in past centuries the Papal States had used the death penalty, saying that was a mistake<sup>2</sup>. The Bible is not mistaken.

To read more about the moral reasons for capital punishment for murder go to: [Apologetic Press - Killing, Murder, and the Bible](#).

## OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

But what does Jesus think of the Mosaic Law?

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law." Jesus identifies interpersonal hatred as the cause of murder. In Matthew 5:22 Jesus says that even interpersonal anger and verbal abuse warrant the penalty of hell. Thus Jesus amplifies the penalty of capital punishment by extending the transgression from being a wrong action to being a wrong attitude. Furthermore the penalty changes from being merely physical death to everlasting torment in hell. Jesus makes the problem and penalty much, much worse! I am sure there is not an adult human being on planet earth who has never had *thoughts* of hatred toward another.

There would be no hope for us at all except for the substitution by way of execution of Jesus himself. He paid the death penalty for us. All who identify with and depend on him can go free of their justly deserved sentence of eternal damnation, whether their sin is for murder in attitude or murder in action.

## APPLICATION



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- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Work with government officials to ensure the laws of the land include capital punishment for the crime of first degree murder.
- Uphold the sanctity of human life, but clearly distinguish between the innocent and the guilty. Remember that all killing is not murder.
- Investigate the motivation behind the following types of homicide: Manslaughter, murder, execution, assassination, and casualties in war.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take first? Ask Him.



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## KEY WORDS

death, government, injustice, justice, less assets (quantity), prison, retribution, taxes, bf sharing

## ILLUSTRATION

### Who is Prudent Pauline?



Prudent Pauline is a planner. She looks before she leaps, she thinks before she speaks. Her favourite mottos are: “Haste makes waste,” “brains over brawn,” and “don’t jump to conclusions.”

When Pauline first heard that famous maxim: “The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step,” she said NO! It begins with a good map. The map must be studied and the best route plotted. Consider road conditions, terrain, rest stops, refuelling, hostile territory, expected weather, travelling companions, clothing, supplies, and many more factors, including (if necessary) a guide.

She has studied the wisdom of Solomon and even helped teach him a thing or two. Solomon wrote these words about 3,000 years ago in honour of Prudent Pauline. “Whatever your hand finds to do (no matter what you are doing) do it with all your might (give it your full ability and energy) for there is no activity or planning or wisdom after you die—it will be too late.” Pauline says, “First comes wisdom, then comes planning (her favourite activity), and then comes activity.”

Pauline makes the time to do tax planning. She does a work plan every day. She uses a day timer or planner to assign priorities to her activities. She and Diligent Daniel are an incredible



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pair. Pauline does all her homework before she starts an activity.



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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Thibault, Eric. "Federal inmate costs soar to \$117Gs each per year." *Edmonton Sun*, March 19, 2014.

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2014/03/18/federal-inmate-cost-soars-to-177gs-each-per-year>

<sup>2</sup> *The National Post*, August 3, 2018 As reported by Nick Squires, *The Daily Telegraph*, with files from the *Associated Press*.

