

Exodus 21:12 says “Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.” If God said that, then why don’t many Christians support the death penalty?

Few (Mt 7:14) are saved (He 10:38); therefore, God’s criminal justice system is not presently implemented (Eze 13:19). The Christian can take heart; however, knowing that one day the Lord will rule and reign (Is 9:6, 7) and at that time the world will be governed righteously (Re 20:1–10).

God’s moral law is perpetual and ongoing (Mt 5:18). Those who commit crimes worthy of death should be executed “without mercy” (He 10:28-29). The Lord Jesus reaffirmed the death penalty (Mt 15:3-4, Mk 7:8-11) and the apostle Paul endorsed his own execution if he were guilty (Ac 25:11).

Bob Enyart wrote:

Jeffrey Dahmer raped, killed and ate parts of at least thirteen men. As punishment, the government was planning to feed, clothe, educate, medicate, entertain, and legally represent him for the rest of his life in an expensive climate-controlled facility. Families of his victims would pay taxes, in part, to keep Dahmer comfortable, warm in winter and cool in summer. That type of punishment is supposed to scare and deter other potential mass murderers. Even though Dahmer eventually did truly repent, the New Testament verses...indicate that regardless, he still should have been executed...¹

Ecclesiastes 8:11 states, “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

The god of this world (2 Co 4:4) and the men who serve him (1 Jn 5:19) have only a short time left to rule and reign (Re 12:12). Those who trouble the believer will be repaid with affliction (2 Thess 1:6-10).

Justice delayed is not justice denied (Deut 32:4).

¹ Enyart, Bob. “What Does the Bible Say About the Death Penalty.” *kgov.com*, kgov.com/god-and-death-penalty-what-does-the-bible-say-about-capital-punishment. Accessed 8 Nov. 2023.