

## Hands That Shed Innocent Blood

(Proverbs 6:16-19)

### Introduction:

1. In Proverbs 6:16-19 we are shown how God feels about 7 things -- He hates them, and they are an abomination to Him.
2. It is unfortunate, but it is necessary for us to study the third subject in this list: *"hands that shed innocent blood."*
3. We constantly hear about innocent people being killed.
  - a. We recently heard about a woman who killed her children.
  - b. Last week a co-pilot crashed a plane, killing the passengers.
4. This certainly is not a pleasant subject, but we need to know what God wants us to know about "the shedding of innocent blood" [murder].

### Discussion:

- I. CAIN WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD
  - A. (Genesis 4:8) He killed his brother Abel.
  - B. Later, God said to Cain: *"the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground"* (vs.10).
  - C. God punished Cain for his deed (vs.11-15).
  - D. After the flood (Genesis 9:5-6), God gave the penalty for shedding innocent blood.
    1. God made man in His image.
    2. Those who shed man's blood give up the right to live.
- II. SHEDDING INNOCENT BLOOD WAS ADDRESSED IN THE LAW OF MOSES
  - A. (Exodus 20:13) *"Thou shalt not kill."*
  - B. This is interesting because God also commanded the Israelites to take the lives of certain people.
    1. Some violations of the law were punishable by death (Exodus 21:12, 15-17).
    2. On several occasions God instructed the Israelites to completely destroy their enemies (Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites -- 1 Samuel 15:3).
  - C. According to Matthew 19:18, murder was the kind of killing forbidden by God.
- III. MURDER IS ALSO ADDRESSED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
  - A. Let us first examine the teachings of Christ.
    1. (Matthew 5:21-22) Jesus contrasted His will with what the Jews had been taught.
    2. (Matthew 15:19-20a) He showed that murder proceeds from the heart.
    3. Jesus gave 2 commands that will end murder (Matthew 22:39; 7:12).
  - B. Let us examine the New Testament epistles.

1. (Galatians 5:19-21) Murder is described as a work of the flesh.
  - a. Those who persist in the works of the flesh will not inherit God's kingdom.
  - b. (Revelation 21:8) "*Murderers*" will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.
2. Who is responsible for punishing murderers?
  - a. The state is responsible (Romans 13:3-4).
  - b. God has given the state authority to administer capital punishment.
  - c. One problem we have today is addressed in Ecclesiastes 8:11.
3. The New Testament also addresses spiritual murder (1 John 3:14-15).

#### IV. STEPS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST MURDER

- A. Remember that life is a gift from God.
- B. Remember how God feels toward those who shed innocent blood.
- C. Root out things from the heart that can lead to murder (anger, hatred, bitterness, greed, etc).
- D. Practice the Golden Rule.
- E. Strive to live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18).
- F. Avoid evil influence such as friends, movies, etc. (1 Corinthians 15:33).

#### Conclusion:

1. We know how God feels toward those whose hands shed innocent blood.
2. Let us strive to have the kind of hands described in 1 Timothy 2:8.