



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JULY 14, 2020

WHY THE MURDERS?



YOU CAN'T TURN ON A LOCAL NEWSCAST OR UNFOLD A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT BEING INFORMED OF ANOTHER MURDER IN THE INDIANAPOLIS METRO AREA. AS OF JULY 10TH, THE HOMICIDE RATE IN OUR CITY WAS 114. THAT'S ONE MURDER EVERY 41 HOURS IN 2020! AT THAT RATE WE WILL HAVE 215 MURDERS THIS YEAR. AND THAT'S IN ADDITION TO THE 171 IN 2019 AND 178 IN 2018.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY THE CRIME? WHY THE HIGH MURDER RATES? IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE HAS AN IDEA OR WANTS TO FORM A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PROBLEM. THESE MAY ALL BE WELL AND GOOD BUT LET ME SUGGEST WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS.

WE HAVE HIGH MURDER RATES BECAUSE OUR RULERS HAVE FORSAKEN THEIR BIBLICAL MANDATE.

ROMANS 13:3-4 STATES THAT CIVIC RULERS ARE "NOT A CAUSE OF FEAR FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, BUT FOR EVIL . . . FOR IT IS THE MINISTER OF GOD TO YOU FOR GOOD. BUT IF YOU DO WHAT IS EVIL, BE AFRAID; FOR IT DOES NOT BEAR THE SWORD FOR NOTHING; FOR IT IS A MINISTER OF GOD, AN AVENGER WHO BRINGS WRATH ON THE ONE WHO PRACTICES EVIL." (SEE ALSO 1 PETER 2:13-14). OUR POLICE AND ELECTED POLITICIANS ARE AFRAID OF BEING FEARED, YET THAT IS WHAT GOD SAYS SHOULD BE THE CASE FROM THOSE WHO CHOSE TO DO EVIL. GOD DOES NOT APPROVE OF BRUTALITY FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, BUT HE ALSO DOES NOT APPROVE OF PASSIVITY TOWARD THOSE WHO BREAK THE LAW.

WE HAVE HIGH MURDER RATES BECAUSE OUR LEGISLATORS DISREGARD GOD'S CAPITAL PUNISHMENT COMMAND.

I KNOW THAT EVEN SOME CHRISTIANS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. HOWEVER, GOD MAKES IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT THOSE WHO MURDER SHOULD PAY FOR THEIR CRIME WITH THEIR LIVES. EXODUS 20:13 SAYS, "THOU SHALT NOT MURDER." BUT MUCH EARLIER THAN THAT, GOD GAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EIGHT PEOPLE STEPPING OFF OF NOAH'S ARK. "WHOEVER SHEDS MAN'S BLOOD, BY MAN HIS BLOOD SHALL BE SHED, FOR IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, HE MADE MAN." WHEN WE DISREGARD HUMAN LIFE, WE DISRESPECT GOD, THEREFORE GOD ESTABLISHED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

WHAT SHOULD BELIEVERS DO?

CHRISTIANS SHOULD DO AT LEAST THESE THREE THINGS. FIRST, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR (MARK 12:31) BY MOURNING WITH THE FAMILIES DEALING WITH LOSS DUE TO MURDER. SECOND, PRAY FOR THOSE WHO GOVERN US (1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3). AND THIRDLY, SUBMIT TO AND HONOR OUR CIVIL AUTHORITIES (1 PETER 2:13).

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE