

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. Unfortunately, it is necessary for us to study the third subject in this list: "*hands that shed innocent blood.*"
3. Innocent blood is being shed regularly in our community, our state, our country, and the world.
4. This certainly is not a pleasant subject, but we need to know what God wants us to know about "murder."

Discussion:

- I. CAIN WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD
 - A. (Genesis 4:8) He killed his brother Abel.
 - B. Later, in vs.10, God said to Cain: "*the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*"
 - C. God punished Cain for killing Abel (vs.11-12).
 - D. After the flood, God gave the penalty for shedding man's blood (Genesis 9:5-6).
 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, 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 actually 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.
 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, internet, etc. (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Conclusion:

1. God considers the shedding of innocent blood to be a serious offense.
2. May He help us to practice and teach the words of His Son (John 13:34-35)!