

The Joy of One Witness Numbers 35 Verses 30

29 So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die. 31 Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. 32 And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. 33 So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it. 34 Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: "*the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die*" We see here that no one could be sentenced to death by the mouth of one witness or accuser. We find that to be true for God's people as demonstrated in the scripture in: *Re 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

God's purpose in the death of the murderer, and the one who has fled to the city of refuge as a man slayer, is to purge the land and keep it clean. We notice; God says; if you are a murderer; you can't bribe or work your way out of the death penalty. The death penalty must be executed. This reminds us that there is always a consequence for sin. We remember in Genesis; when Cain slew Able; Able's blood cried to God from the earth where it was spilled; seen in: *Ge 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.* We also remember the penalty of the first murder.

It is easy for men to say "I am not guilty of murder, and therefore; I am not in condemnation of the death sentence" However, we find in the New Testament scripture, in this age of salvation by grace, these words of God: *1Jo 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

Hate, in the Old Testament, has the definition of; *to hate (personally) enemy or foe, to be hateful or odious, to hate utterly.* Hate, in the New Testament, has the definition of: *to detest, to persecute, or to love less.* Looking at these definitions; can you truly say; you have never had hatred in your heart for another person? I doubt that there are any persons, who are not guilty of this, at one time or another in their life.

This is a prophetic picture; of the shed, and atoning, blood of Christ Jesus accusing those who are not children of God. If Christ did not die for you; you have the sentence of eternal banishment from the presence of God; as seen in the punishment of Cain in: *Ge 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid;*

In application to ourselves, today in time; God's people understand; there is an established place to which we should resort, the Church of Salvation by Grace. In the church we have refuge and protection from our sins, and the death penalty attached thereto, because of the shed blood of Christ covers for us. We are no longer under the penalty of eternal death. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ for his finished work of salvation by grace!

In the cities of refuge; we see the mercy and grace of our Saviour and Lord. How? Who is it we must turn to when we fall in sin? There is no one but Jesus Christ to intercede for us, before God the Father, when we commit sins. This is a picture of; the Church of Salvation by Grace (cities of refuge)

scattered throughout the world, to which God's people resort and seek refuge, from a world of sin that would rather kill you than see you saved.

In our reference in Revelation, we see that our accuser, in singular form, was presenting before God the accusations against us. He is always testifying against us and accusing us before God. But as noted in the text, a singular voice is not enough to bring the sentence of death. However, if Christ also testifies that we are guilty, and not under his shed and atoning blood; we then have two witnesses against us, and we shall be sentenced to an eternal death in the lake of fire. We find in scripture that this shall happen in the eternal judgment day. Praise God; we have an advocate in heaven, Jesus the Christ, who will testify that our sin debt has been paid by his blood. Praise God; there are three in heaven, that will testify on our behalf, and give not a death sentence, but rather the gift of eternal life in the eternal heaven, which Christ has gone to prepare for us.

Praise and glory, to the name of God, for our cities of refuge in this world of sin and sorrow. Praise God for Salvation by Grace, and for Eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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