

## ENDORSEMENTS

Capital punishment is an emotionally charged issue. Dr. Gleason systematically examines the historical background of the issue and then, more importantly, examines the objections and the scriptures to present a compelling argument. As a practicing attorney and as a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel, I fully endorse his scathing criticism of our liberal activist judges. Dr. Gleason's book has settled the issue for me and I challenge those on both sides of the issue to read it.

Richard B. Hudson, J.D.  
Fallbrook, CA

*The Death Penalty on Trial* will challenge both sides of the capital-punishment debate to know and articulate their positions more definitively. Dr. Gleason presents an incisive overview of capital punishment, with careful cautions on interpreting specific events in their proper context. He avoids simplistic answers to this serious topic, recognizing that real lives are at stake. This book assesses and provides clear guidance for establishing and maintaining a safe and righteous society.

Dr. Dominic A. Aquila  
President, New Geneva Theological Seminary, Colorado Springs, CO

Fuzziness on ethical issues is the bane of modern thinking. Happily, there is a voice of clear reason on the scene. Dr. Ron Gleason brings genuine moral clarity to the issue of capital punishment by his illuminating survey of American History. The reader will be most appreciative of Dr. Gleason's masterful discussion of the objections to the death penalty. This book is a must-read for all lawyers, judges, and law officers.

Pastor Carl Robbins  
Senior Minister, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church  
Greenville, SC

Regardless of one's own position on the controversial issue of capital punishment, Dr. Gleason clearly and effectively gives readers the resources to work through this topic and equips them to discuss it with others. This powerful book will make a significant contribution to this topic. I recommend it for careful reading, study, and discussion.

Dr. Charles Dunahoo  
Coordinator of PCA Christian Education and Publications  
Atlanta, GA

*The Death Penalty on Trial* is a must-read for anyone questioning the ethics of capital punishment. Dr. Gleason's treatment lays a foundation and framework of thinking that is essential for discussion. Many have mistakenly tried to defend erroneous positions because they have been misinformed by historical inaccuracies. This treatment to key historical documents is crisp, clear, and a valuable resource for anyone discussing this often emotionally-charged topic. Those dealing with current judicial reform need to read this to gain insight, not only to the issue of capital punishment, but also to those issues that surround (and often cloud) it.

Dr. John O. Bumgardner, Jr.  
First Presbyterian Church, Dillon, SC

At a time when sentiment and the spirit of the age too often characterize liberal ethical reflection, how refreshing it is to see careful Biblical reflection on one of the great issues of our day. Dr. Gleason not only articulates and defends the Scripture's teaching on capital punishment, but also cogently responds to many of the contemporary objections raised. Accessible without being simplistic, this book should be in the hands of every individual seeking light on this controversial topic.

Dr. Guy Prentiss Waters  
Associate Professor of New Testament, Reformed Theological Seminary  
Jackson, MS

Whether you are an abolitionist or believe in Biblical retribution, this is a must-read. Dr. Gleason tackles this controversial subject and disassembles all of the arguments against capital punishment in a logical and persuasive way. The most convincing argument in the book is Dr. Gleason's response to those who argue against capital punishment on the grounds that it is better for ten guilty men to go free, than one innocent man to be executed.

Charles M. Loopstra, Q.C.  
Queen's Counselor, Toronto, Ontario

In a society that wants to deny a divine absolute standard, I find Dr. Gleason's work both challenging and thought-provoking as he systematically provides the Biblical basis supporting his view on capital punishment.

Brad Dacus, Esq.  
President, Pacific Justice Institute, Sacramento, CA

THE  
DEATH PENALTY  
ON TRIAL

TAKING A LIFE  
FOR  
A LIFE TAKEN

Ron Gleason, Ph.D.



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The Death Penalty on Trial: Taking a Life for a Life Taken



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Appendix:  
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CHAPTER 5: Crime and Punishment: Judging the Death Penalty  
by D. James Kennedy, PH.D. and Jerry Newcombe, D.MIN.  
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### *Crime and Punishment: Judging the Death Penalty*

by D. James Kennedy, Ph.D. and  
Jerry Newcombe, D.Min. 105



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## THE PUBLISHER'S WORD

*"You shall not murder."*

(Deuteronomy 5:17)

*"The LORD...comes to judge the earth. He will  
judge the world in righteousness, and  
the peoples in His faithfulness."*

(Psalm 96:13)

**T**HIS BOOK is primarily written to Christians, as the author proposes Biblical answers to the question of capital punishment. But this book is applicable to all people in all places for all time, as the matter of God's Sixth Commandment and the just punishment of its transgressors is of vital importance to everyone's life and safety today and forever.

Routinely we hear news of judicial decisions where cold-blooded murderers are given lax sentences by lenient judges and juries due to their false assumption that evil-doers in society can, over time, somehow be rehabilitated while locked-up in prisons. Or that a life taken unjustly does not warrant the penalty of taking another life—the life of the perpetrator of this most vicious of all crimes.

Consequently, our jails are excessively clogged with criminals including the worst of all, murderers, because the decision-

makers sitting on benches in courtrooms think they are able to mete out legal penal punishment and sanctions more judicially and wisely than the Creator of life Himself.

*The Death Penalty On Trial: The Taking of a Life for a Life Taken* examines the pros and cons of this crucial issue in our culture; the reasons propounded in the public square for measuring guilt and the perceived appropriate penalties regarding the issue of killing, specifically of murder. This issue is hugely important for the protection of innocent lives and the overall safety in the current worldwide culture of death.

The author addresses and responds to all the main arguments in opposition to capital punishment, as well as those thoughtful reasons for carefully implementing the death penalty as appropriate for proven cases of guilt in a court of law for murderers committing this most heinous of all crimes (the worst of all sins according to God's Word).

Most secularists and many Christians adhere to the false hope of rehabilitation and the erroneous opinion that the taking of a life by execution for a life taken by murder is unnecessary and unwarranted – or even cruel and inhumane. Some even go so far as to say that the death penalty is every bit as horrific as the innocent victim's murder.

There are hundreds of opinions on many complex issues in the world today. Every person has a viewpoint, and generally it is to do what is right in his or her own eyes. On this particular issue, there must be a best, right-approach solution, since it is too critical for the safety and well-being of society as a whole, which includes the victims and their families as well as the criminal. So which stance is the correct one?

Today the death penalty is on trial around the world. Rarely are convicted murderers put to a speedy death following a speedy trial. Most linger in jail for years, many are released

## THE PUBLISHER'S WORD

early on parole, and some commit more serious crimes, including murdering additional victims (recidivism).

Let's dissect the critical points of this monumental matter. We are to love and not harm our neighbor, since men and women are created in the image of God and He admonishes us, "You Shall Not Murder." Our Creator tells us of His requirements of a just and proper penalty. Shouldn't we heed our most wise and loving Maker?

Please consider Dr. Gleason's case and come to your own conclusion, but do so carefully and with an open mind after having reviewed all the arguments, positions, and rebuttals. Digest this



book fully. This publisher and the author, Dr. Ron Gleason, believe God's penal antidote for this terrible act of evil-doing is the "Taking of a Life – for a Life Taken," according to Holy Scriptures.

— Gerald Christian Nordskog  
January 2009