

The Fifth in a series on the ten commandments.

EXODUS 20:13 -- "THOU SHALT NOT KILL."

This law is probably one of the most disobeyed laws of the universe. "THOU SHALT NOT KILL." But isn't this rather absurd to say to people of a christian nation? We revere life dearly. We do not want to really die of anything but natural causes. So to warn us of that seems so futile...so useless! But we do kill.

This past weekend there wasn't a single homicide in Detroit! That's unusual, because there's almost always homicide in Detroit every weekend. Nonetheless, we dare not single out Detroit. Why? Well there are homicides all over the world every minute. This commandment says loudly, "Revere Human

Life". Do you understand that? Most of us almost never have the temptation to take another's life. Yet, it happens! The fact that it is forbidden by God through Mose's decrees doesn't seem to matter. Are we isolating cases for justification? I think so. Yet, "It is forbidden" by God. Oh, now, this is really confusing. What of wars,

protecting ones self, accidental homicide? Surely, mister preacher, you must have some answers for us. You'd better!

Yes, we are forbidden to take life directly, as did Cain when he slew his brother, Abel. We are forbidden to kill by proxy as did David when he murdered Uriah. This law recognizes the fact that life is God's gift. True, we have power to take it, but we have no power to restore it. Once done, killing cannot be undone!

Also, Paul says, "You are not your own, you are bought with a price." You see, your life belongs to God. You cannot fling it away. That is wrong. Many men, having made a total mess of their lives through folly, find it difficult to face the consequences. So what do they do? They dodge out of life by suicide. Leaving the burden that they should have borne to be borne by others. Wherein it is wrong to kill ourselves by suicide, it is also wrong to kill ourselves by degrees.

We indulge in many pleasures at the price of premature death by some form of dissipation. To indulge in any pleasure at the price of premature death is Wrong. This law, "THOU SHALT NOT KILL", recognizes the sacredness of life. Life is a gift of God. We have the power to take it, yes; but, once it is done, it cannot be undone.

The violation of this law brings most of us under condemnation although we may never be branded as a criminal. It's so easy to break this law without ever getting ourselves arrested. Yes, we can break it by never seeing the inside of a jail. This law (rule) forbids us from exposing either ourselves or others to needless physical risk. We often risk our lives for worthy causes because there is no risk too great for us in the cause of saving our fellowman. But, so many of our risks are silly and sinful. Every day some one of us is hailed into court for wreckless driving while under the influence. The man, therefore, who drives a car while under the influence of alcohol is a potential killer.

The truth is that we can kill in the most tragic fashion without the shedding of any blood at all. We can kill by cruelty, by thanklessness, by neglect. You can also kill, my friends, by exposing your weaker brother to needless temptation.

And now we come to war. I believe this commandment forbids war. I know that this was not its original purpose. The Jews were a warlike people believing that God was a God of war. So a more correct interpretation of this commandment is "THOU SHALT DO NO MURDER". I'm not saying that those of us who kill in wars are murders. But, this doesn't mean that war is right for us. Many helpless women and children are killed. There was a time when only the combatants were killed, but not so in our wars today. Jesus spoke and said, "YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT

WAS SAID BY THEM OF OLD TIME, THOU SHALT NOT KILL...BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT WHOSOEVER IS ANGRY WITH HIS BROTHER WITHOUT CAUSE SHALL BE IN DANGER ... " How, then, can we obey this command? We can obey this command only by possessing a good will toward our fellowman that is active, agressive, and sacrificial. To do this we must have a high sense of human worth as did our Lord.

Treen



Local Activities adults and teenagers in-

A Youth Employment volved. Service will begin in High Point on April 7, 1975. Any teenager interested in working some odd jobs Citizens can call in with any should come to the High odd jobs such as baby Point Youth Council office sitting, yard mowing, and (the first drive on the left spring cleaning. A teenager past McGuinn on Lexington will then be contacted, and the two can discuss the a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A work needed, the price, and \$2.00 registration fee will transportation. The Youth be charged. Employment Service is a

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The High Point Youth Council is sponsoring a Golf Tournament at Oak Hollow Golf Course on April 2. The Tournament will be a blind bogey tournament open to high school students 16 yo Ave.) on April 4 from 10:00 18 years of age. The green fee will be \$4.00 plus a \$1.00 entry fee. Entry blanks are available at the

SALES SALES THIS WEEK TO DATE

6

16

If you have any ques- high school. Entry deadline tions contact High Point is March 28.

[HIGH POINT]



DEATHS [THOMASVILLE]

MI

MR. THORNIE W. WHITE

Mr. Thornie W. White, 76. of 1603 Oneka Street, died in the Maryfield Nursing Home. Funeral services were held at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church with Dr. Bernard Fitzgerald, the

Rev. Delbert Byrum, and the Rev. G. Ray Coleman officiating. Burial was in Carolina Biblical Garden. HAIZLIP'S FUNERAL HOME was in charge of all arrangements

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of 205 Church Street, died in Liberty House Nursing Home. Funeral services were held at the Central

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The Walking

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RELIGION

At Mt. Vernon

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1975

The Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Youth Choir is presenting an Easter Cantata entitled "Alleluia", The Cantata will begin at 7 A.M., Easter Sunday, March 30, in the church sanctuary, 716 Leonard Avenue. Narration will be by Alfred L. Hinson. The Mt. Vernon Baptist Church's pastor, the Rev. F.O. Bass, and its congregation invite the United Methodist Church public to attend.

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