

## System of Justice [continued from 283002]

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by Jerald Prater

...Mr. Zimmerman's case), shunning by family/friends/community, being the victim of vigilantism or revenge by someone who was impacted by your crime. No one really gets off "scott free." It is worth noting that those punishment and repercussions are all temporary. Eternal punishment is just that . . . **ETERNAL.** Life without parole? Try Eternity without parole!!

I, like almost everyone else, have formed my own opinions about the Zimmerman/Martin case, based on what has been reported and what I have learned through research. I, like almost everyone else, was not present at the time of the shooting nor was I a member of the jury.

There are several victims in this case, from jurors who may suffer retribution for their decision, to members of Mr. Martin's family that will deal with pain and loss for a long while. In a sad case like this (whether you agree with the verdict or not), we should take care to remember that this world is **NOT** our home. And we should lay up treasures in a better land (Matthew 6:19-21), where there will be no death, pain, or sorrow (Revelation 21:4).

To reach that land, we need to do all we can to "*live peaceably among men*" (Romans 12:18) and keep the commandments of our LORD. Then we can hear those wonderful words at our final judgment "*well done, thy good and faithful servant*" (Luke 13:22-28).

## Just How Important Are They?

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by Bill Crews

Just how important are Bible classes and worship services? If they are not more important than social engagements, recreation, entertainment, secular employment and secular education, then spiritual things are not more important than material, nor eternity than time. By our teaching, our conversation and our conduct what are we saying to our children? Are we telling them that Bible classes and Bible study and worshiping God are more important than school and secular study, or are we telling them the reverse? When we would not let them stay home on a school day or would not ourselves miss work except for serious reasons, but we miss or allow them to miss Bible classes for trivial reasons, what are we telling them?

When we allow them to miss spiritual services for school activities, or homework assignments, or ball team activities, are we really telling them that spiritual matters are the most important thing in life? Yes, we want them to fill a useful place in life and to provide for their own physical needs, but do we have a much greater desire that they live for Jesus and prepare for eternity? If it turns out that they lose their souls in eternity, let us at least go down fighting for those precious souls.

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