

Man Who Murdered Pastor in Brutal Crucifixion-Style Killing Learns His Fate in Court

The man who admitted to killing an Arizona pastor in a crime that stunned people across the country has been sentenced to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

According to ChurchLeaders, Adam Sheafe received a natural life sentence without the possibility of parole for the murder of Pastor William “Bill” Schonemann, a longtime pastor of New River Bible Chapel in New River, Arizona.

Schonemann, 76, was found dead in his home in April 2025. Authorities described the crime as exceptionally violent, and investigators said evidence at the scene suggested an attempt to imitate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



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Investigators said Schonemann’s hands had been pinned to a wall and that a crown of thorns had been placed on his head.

During court proceedings, prosecutors argued that the killing was deliberate and that Schonemann was targeted because of his role as a Christian pastor.

As Charisma previously reported, Sheafe was planning to murder 14 different priests and pastors across America for “leading their flocks astray.”

This news comes after Sheafe previously argued for the death

penalty to make the case that he is “God’s son,” before changing his mind following the passing of his father and stepmother in a plane crash.

During this time, pray for Schonemann’s family as they emotionally navigate the loss of their loved one.

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