

## **SELF-DEFENSE & GOD**

Jesus advised His disciples to sell cloaks and buy swords. They used Roman law to their advantage on every opportunity. Because of weapons and wars, you have freedom to worship today. In 1776 it was routine for pastors to have loaded guns in the pulpit as they preached. Many raised troops in church, and led them into battle, to secure our Constitutional liberties.

**1- OUR HISTORY.** Self-preservation is fundamental to the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the freedom of religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly, petitioning the government. And, the right to keep and to bear arms, which shall not be infringed. Especially to stop the kind of tyranny that today's rioters and their enablers try to force upon us.

"To be disarmed was to be enslaved, and led to the disruption of the economic order," explains theologian Joel McDurmon. "The Bible calls for national defense through an armed populace and militia, upon necessity." Armed citizens deter wars and murder and tyranny.

American history confirms the value of armed citizens in keeping the peace. Even frontier preachers carried weapons. It's all too true that "peacemaker" also refers to the Colt revolver (reminiscent of David's sling with five smooth stones). Scripture context and culture shows the Bible does not prohibit self-defense, but underscores the gravity of the sanctity of human life.

**2. OUR LAWS.** This truth is also underscored in classes for CCW permits: carry, practice, but pray you never have to draw and fire. With more than 20,000 laws about guns in America today, even acting in self-defense will lead to difficult legal battles. The Bible says the government has the power of the sword primarily to protect the lives of its citizens (Romans 13). We are to pray for government leaders so we can lead godly and peaceable lives (1 Timothy 2).

"Christians are obliged, insofar as they are able, to hold the state to account for not fulfilling its responsibility to protect life," notes theologian RC Sproul. This includes our protection of the helpless (Ezekiel 33, Proverbs 24:10-12). The God-given right to life is not just for the living, but also for the unborn and infirm. It is up to us, the living and able, to trust and obey God's Word and to grow His kingdom, not by force, but peacefully, by His power.

**3. OUR REALITY.** Stewards of God-given rights and responsibilities must not allow satanic philosophies, such as social darwinism (the strong not only survive but prevail over weak sub-species). This is the root of Antifa and BLM rioters carrying out a satanic assault against all that is God's. Their promoters declare that riots "will" and "should" continue after the election.

Left-wing leaders and organizers point to the role of the occult and demonic in their training. Attacks on our Constitutional rights are just today's tipping point of the radical objectives of people not trained like you, who don't think like you, and don't like you, especially Christians.

"Progressive" politicians are determined to deny fundamental rights, and want other people totally dependent upon government, without individual rights and constitutional protections (especially the Bill of Rights). It is a travesty for so-called followers of Christ to take any part, passive or active, in the most radical pro-death agenda ever promoted by a major political party in America. Don't be deceived. Your choice is not left or right, it is good versus evil.

**4. OUR GOD.** "To think Christians should have nothing to do with guns departs from Scripture, Christian legal history, and American history," says theologian Joel McDurmon. "We should both learn, and exercise, our right to arms. Evil ever advances. We ignore the lessons of the Bible and history to the peril of our freedoms and lives." And we have spiritual weapons which are able to defeat the lies of the world, the flesh, the devil (Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 6:7, 10:3-5, Colossians 2:6-10) by the power of the Holy Spirit wielding the Word of God.

We may carry both physical and spiritual weapons, but our reliance is not in what we have, but what God has. Consider the warrior-king David (Psalms 33 and 144): "*Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war and my fingers for battle. He is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, He in whom I take refuge. Bow Your heavens O Lord, and come down, flash your lightning, send out Your arrows, stretch out Your hand from on high, rescue and deliver me. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!*" Whatever your preparation, your only sure defense is God Himself! ☐