

# GUNS AND THE MILITARY

## (Christians and Violence)

### Resources Used for This Topic Include:

Preston Sprinkle: **THE FIGHT**

Michael W. Austin and Ron Gleason: **THE GUN CONTROL DEBATE: TWO CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES** (Christian Research Journal Magazine, 2013)

- + Here's Preston Sprinkle's bottom line: "I do \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus wants Christians to use \_\_\_\_\_."
- + He says, "We live in a strange scene of redemptive history when \_\_\_\_\_ to war, violence, and militarism is deemed \_\_\_\_\_."
- + He defines Violence as: "a physical act that is intended to destroy (i.e. injure) a victim by means that \_\_\_\_\_ the victim's \_\_\_\_\_."
- + Violence begins almost at the beginning, in Genesis, when Cain \_\_\_\_\_ murdered his brother Abel.
- + God responds to the first murder with \_\_\_\_\_—a visible preservation of shalom.
- + And God didn't \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ either including Moses and David.
- + A big part of Preston's viewpoint with violence in the O.T. is figuring out what is \_\_\_\_\_ and what is \_\_\_\_\_.
- + Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ violent and had a stripped-down ---almost \_\_\_\_\_—warfare policy compared to the nations around it.
- + In Deut 20 the case is made for war this way:
  - \_\_\_\_\_, not military might, determines the victory
  - Israel's army is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ warriors

- Israel must offer \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST
- Only if the city \_\_\_\_\_ can you go to war
- Noncombatants are not to be killed
- Even \_\_\_\_\_ are to be saved

+ Remember when you read the Bible to distinguish between the “\_\_\_\_\_” and the “\_\_\_\_\_.” Not everything that happens is God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

+ God sanctions specific wars to protect his \_\_\_\_\_, but the primary weapons were to be faith, obedience, and prayer not chariots and horses.

+ Jesus preached a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.

+ Jesus preaches a \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom. John 18:36

+ Listen, something is \_\_\_\_\_ when the Kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_ from the kingdom of the world.

+ The Sermon of the Mount is Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Kingdom we are to live in NOW—and it’s radically non-violent.

+ Throughout his ministry, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ retaliates and \_\_\_\_\_ loves his enemies, even when he is violently attacked.

+ While on the cross he prays \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_ his attackers.

+ Read 1 Peter 2:21-23

+ Read Phil 3:20.

+ What about Romans 13?????

+ What about the WRATH of the LAMB in the Book of Revelation?

+ Well, read it closely—the violence is not \_\_\_\_\_ out as much as it is \_\_\_\_\_!!!!!!

+ Nowhere in Revelation are \_\_\_\_\_ encouraged to act violently.

- + Jesus receives authority to judge His enemies \_\_\_\_\_ he first suffers by their hands as a slaughtered Lamb.
- + And the Lamb conquers by the sword—THAT COMES FROM HIS \_\_\_\_\_ not his \_\_\_\_\_!
- + Our enemies can kick us, beat us, kill us—but they cannot win—THE LAMB has \_\_\_\_\_!
- + Think about this: The Early Christian writers were \_\_\_\_\_ on many issues, such as the mode of baptism, the role of women in leadership, and whether Christians should observe the Sabbath. BUT WHEN IT CAME TO KILLING THEIR VOICES SEEMED TO BE \_\_\_\_\_: BELIEVERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING HUMAN LIFE.
- + The “soldier” passages highlight one basic point: THE GOSPEL PIERCES THE HEART OF \_\_\_\_\_ PEOPLE—EVEN ROMAN MILITARY LEADERS.
- + Was Jesus violent? John 2:14-15.
- + What about telling them in Luke 22:35-38 to buy a sword.
- + What about Augustine’s JUST WAR theory:
  - Just \_\_\_\_\_ (self-defense, stop genocide, etc)
  - Right \_\_\_\_\_ (only legit gov’t not criminals or private militia)
  - Right \_\_\_\_\_ (no vengeance, economic gain, expanding your territory)
  - Reasonable Chance of \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Resort (all other means exhausted)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Means
  - Noncombatant \_\_\_\_\_

This topic is \_\_\_\_\_! I’m not settled on it. And frankly, I hope, after tonight, you’re \_\_\_\_\_ settled on it either.

Next Pastor’s Perspective will be **NEXT WEEK!** “Hell and Who Is Going There.” **Note this is a schedule change!**