

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Just War - WWJD****Just War - WWJD, on: 2014/11/11 2:12**

So, this topic has been coming up again and again in my life.

Dr. Barrier asks the question, "Should the Church support a just war?" <http://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/ask-roger/should-the-church-support-just-war.html>

My current beliefs have changed dramatically over the past two years. That's is, I used to believe in the idea of a 'just war' but...now have come to the conclusion that Jesus encouraged martyrdom (lying down your life for others), not war.

If we were to strictly look at the words of Jesus, I don't see how a person could be honest with the text and to say what Dr. Barrier said, "My conclusion is that there is a time to turn the other cheek and a time to fight back." *(I have no issue with Dr. Barrier but I do with the belief, which I'd like to discuss the belief here)*

We are to be like our Master (later declared our Friend). To be like a lamb before slaughter. To be Abel, not Cain.

For what it's worth, the Catholic Church believes in a 'just war'. I even watched a video stating that many people of the early church were military people, eventually culminating with formally approving of a 'just war' to 'protect the state'.

The Orthodox church doesn't believe that there is any 'just' war. Protestants seem mixed.

My question is what is the Kingdom of God, in relation to wars on this earth? What is 'the way/rule/reign of God' on earth look like, in relation to wars on this earth? What did Jesus teach/lead us to do?

Re: Just War - WWJD - posted by back-to-acts (), on: 2014/11/11 10:36

I see two different things going on here. There is the persecution that is coming on us, and then there is the persecution that is coming on others.

I believe that we are to be like Christ (the Lamb before the slaughter) when we are being persecuted. But I do not have the same belief when others that have no way of defending themselves are being harmed.

If a thief comes into my home and is going to kill my wife and three children are you saying that I should turn the other cheek? Some would say yes and I see where they are coming from. But as a husband and father I am to be like Christ to my family. I am called to love my wife as Christ has loved the church. So when I look at how Christ loves His church, would He allow Satan to come against His church and afflict us and not declare war on Satan to defend His bride? Would Christ not do everything in His power to defend and protect His bride? I would say yes, He absolutely would. He also tells us to be armed in the war against Satan and his kingdom. So therefore I do believe in protecting those that Christ has given us charge and authority over even to the point of killing if need be. For Christ appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

I also think we need to realize that there is a huge difference between being persecuted for being a Christian and just being persecuted because of wickedness. The way we respond to persecution of any flavor does play a huge role, but I think we need to realize the vast separation between being be-headed because of Christ vs. being be-headed for being an American. One is a tragedy, the other is glorious. I fear that we in America have become more American than Christian.

Now, what do we do when other people outside of our immediate authority are being persecuted/afflicted- for example ISIS? I look at it this way, I believe the Bible says to plead the cause of the orphan and the widows. And to care for the orphans and the widows. What if there was a terrorist group who started going around killing all the orphans and the widows for the sake of their deity? What are we to do as Christians? Obviously this is hypothetically speaking, and I pray this never happens. With the command we have been given in scripture to care for those and to plead their cause, what are we to do?

Us going and feeding them may prolong life, but it will not stop the killing of those being slain. Us building orphanages may protect for a while, but it will not stop the killing of those innocent children. That is like going and reaching the prostitutes, but never dealing with the problem of the men who abuse the prostitutes! I personally believe that both aspects of this discussion can be Christ like. Because going and feeding the ones who are being afflicted by evil is extremely Christ

like! Helping women caught in prostitution is extremely Christ like! Building orphanages for children without homes is extremely Christ like! These are things that I am being convicted of right now as I type this! So please do not take it the wrong way.

But on the other hand if the evil and wickedness is not confronted head on and cast down, then the problem will continue to persist. And sometimes war may be the answer. Ultimately war/killing from our hands is not the answer. Christ destroying/killing through His power is the answer. And that is not a physical killing, but a spiritual killing of the sin and demonic powers of the ones consumed with wickedness. I am not saying I am right at all whatsoever on this issue, and really am open to hearing others sides of this issue. If there is a way of reaching those demon controlled people that are killing innocent children for the name of their deity without war, God reveal it. For God so loved even those, of who I am chief.

with Love,
Travis

Re: , on: 2014/11/11 17:45

I like how you broke up the discussion to two distinctions. Being persecuted as an individual and others being persecuted.

You said that turning the other cheek applies when we suffer but not when our family does.

"So when I look at how Christ loves His church, would He allow Satan to come against His church and afflict us and not declare war on Satan to defend His bride? Would Christ not do everything in His power to defend and protect His bride?"

Christ does defend us but not in our worldly view. The early church were martyrs, not 'defenders'. Peter was rebuked by Jesus at the Garden, "If you live by the sword, you die by the sword."

Also, I think Jesus, in that context, applies to your separate view of 'others suffering'. Jesus didn't command a multitude of angels to defend, instead He was loving to His enemies, which is every believers call.

Also, our weapons 'aren't of this world'. I don't know of any 1st gen or 2nd gen Christian who 'defended by force' their beliefs and loved ones.

You also separated 'why are we being persecuted'.

"I also think we need to realize that there is a huge difference between being persecuted for being a Christian and just being persecuted because of wickedness."

Yes, Job was persecuted, IMO. But, how did Job react?

"What if there was a terrorist group who started going around killing all the orphans and the widows for the sake of their deity? What are we to do as Christians? "

This is a really good question.

"Us going and feeding them may prolong life, but it will not stop the killing of those being slain. Us building orphanages may protect for a while, but it will not stop the killing of those innocent children. That is like going and reaching the prostitutes, but never dealing with the problem of the men who abuse the prostitutes! I personally believe that both aspects of this discussion can be Christ like. Because going and feeding the ones who are being afflicted by evil is extremely Christ like! Helping women caught in prostitution is extremely Christ like! Building orphanages for children without homes is extremely Christ like!"

I believe this is a solid answer. Love beats hate.

"But on the other hand if the evil and wickedness is not confronted head on and cast down, then the problem will continue to persist. And sometimes war may be the answer."

I used to have this view but...I don't think any of Jesus' teachings taught this. War is never the answer.

My perspective is this; that we are to turn the other cheek, to flee, to protect. Protection doesn't look like fighting. It does look like suffering and fleeing. As a church proverb says, "Love the hell out of them."

I'm not saying any of this is easy. Jesus wasn't easy to follow. "Sell everything. Take nothing when you preach. Be merciful. Love your enemies." His message wasn't easy.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/11/12 3:29

hi love meek and hope , I dont think you will get many comments in this thread we all had a heated thread about this a few weeks back , ill post the link so you can read it many points and scriptures are raised there .

We are encouraged not to carry on these types of discussions for too long ,so it doesnt lead to strife , so i for one dont feel led to talk about this again yet

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id=53109&forum=36&start=0&viewmode=flat&order=0

Re: , on: 2014/11/12 4:37

Hmm, I missed that thread. I have a few threads saved, to read. So, I'm adding another. :)

It seems this topic is very intricate.

It speaks to:

1. God/Christianity in Politics.
2. Self defense
3. Protecting others
4. God's manner of justice (how does He execute justice)
5. The kingdom/way of darkness and light.

Probably touches other topics but...this is no simple topic.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2014/11/12 4:42

yea even the old and new covenant and their relationship and context with what Jesus taught

Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2014/11/12 10:08

Some years ago I was led to take a stand on non resistance by the Holy Spirit. Being saved for 9 years and then getting baptized in the Holy Spirit really changed a lot of doctrinal mindsets I had picked up during those 9 years.

Defending myself, war, killing etc. was a topic the Holy Spirit was dealing with ME on. As I began to share with other Christians what the Lord was sharing, I met with a lot of resistance. I was asked what would I do if someone broke into my home and was going to harm my wife in some way.

Very valid question. As I pondered that thought my response was that I am not believing or fearing that someone coming into my home was ever going to be a possibility. I pray for divine protection and believe it is promised in Gods word for me and my family. This is my belief and confession daily.

Job said that, that which he greatly feared had come upon him. I would tell people that I do not live day to day wondering, fearing, or believing someone is going to break into my home and try and kill or harm me or my wife. If that sounds foolish to some, and I am sure it does, I am totally ok with that because if your belief is otherwise it does not change how I would feel about you one iota.

Every man has to be fully persuaded in his own mind. For several years I attended a church that believed in self defense , politics, war, carrying concealed weapons. It's a long story how I ended up there for 5 years but it was by Gods leading. Many men in this church carried weapons in church which at the time I had no idea. I left the church in 2009 and went back for a visit a couple years later.

What a change I saw in the environment of this church. They had security cameras all around and the men/ushers look just like and dress like the men who protect the president of the USA. They have the earbuds and walkie talkies the whole thing. The Pastor has said if anyone ever comes in there with any idea of a gun fight they are going to have one.

While I pray nothing would ever happen, I believe one day I might see this church in the news headlines. I remember a sermon this Pastor was teaching on a Sunday. He had told about how he and his family were living in a very small building

g 800 sq ft, on the church property. One night there was a banging on the door that was very loud and persistent.

He asked who it was several times with no answer, just persistent banging. He finally told this person through the door that he had his family inside and that he had a gun and that if they came in he was going to KILL him, with emphasis added. He was stressing the point of self defense.

Later in the same sermon he shared a story of a family who were in the mission field in a very dangerous area. There was a van that broke down and the husband had to go for help. He left his wife and children in the van and told the wife to lock the doors and let no one in under any circumstance.

After he left, a man approached the van and walked right up and tried to open the door, the wife and kids were terrified. As he tried doors on both sides he could not get in, he then went toward the back door which the wife realized they did not lock.

As she jumped over the seats and her children to lock the back door he opened it before she got there and he had pulled out a knife and had a crazed murderous look in his eyes and he raised the knife as if to stab her.

Now for the Pastor who in a similar situation earlier in the sermon who had a gun would have shot the man dead. But this woman did not have a gun, she had something more powerful.

As this man had the knife raised she said, In the name of JESUS I rebuke you, he looked at her with a strange look. She said a second time, In the name of JESUS I rebuke you, he looked at her and then he looked at the knife in his hand. He was paralyzed. She said a third time, In the name of JESUS I rebuke you, he then looked at the knife but could not bring it down, then he just dropped it and ran away.

This sermon was not given to differentiate between whether one would use a carnal weapon or a spiritual weapon. This was not the Pastor's point, however for me it was a huge lesson that there is power in the name of Jesus Christ when wielded in faith.

I realize that there are a lot of caveats and scenarios people will raise. The "What If's" if you will. I cannot answer to those nor is it in my heart to debate, argue, or convince a man against his own will.

While I do not agree with the stance of the old church I attended when it comes to weapons, war, and non resistance. I still love these people and count them as my brothers in Christ. I will not judge their hearts or their position in Christ. They are God's workmanship, His clay, He is the Potter, not me. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save.

God has raised up and He has ordained the various military's in the world, ours, and Israel's, etc. I thank God for our military, I pray for these men, women, and families. To many it sounds hypocritical, however this is not my intent or rationale.

I can say that I am thankful for the freedoms I enjoy for now and for those who gave their lives for this freedom. I am thankful that Hitler was stopped, and that the Iron Dome is protecting Israel. But ultimately, All the Glory goes to the God we serve.

These are my two cents on the subject. I will not debate my position but will answer and sincere questions on the matter. I refuse to get into the ring and fight, if people choose to do so, I let them get into the squared circle and wrestle with God on the matter.

I have had many matches in this same ring with God, He always comes out on top by God's grace.

God Bless,
Brother Dave

Re: - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/11/12 13:41

As has been noted, this issue was explored extensively in a recent thread. But there are always new people tuning in, and these questions will neither go away in the near term nor come to complete resolve here.

As a combat veteran, I lean a little more toward the guns. But I have also had some experience in demon deliverance and thoroughly appreciate that there is power in our connection to Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit to invoke His authority in the presence of great personal danger. I have seen it happen, and it is life-changing to hear the Word of Power come from your own lips and see the power of God. As Christians, this should be our first line and best defense.

But in the discussion I believe wisdom would separate out Jesus' actions in the atoning work on the cross from the principles of self defense. Even in the Garden we see some conflict between the rebuke to Peter for whacking off Malchus' ear, then suggesting that carrying one sword was enough. Enough for what?

There are two ways to get someone to do what you want them to do- reason and force. Since we are charged with presenting the gospel to the world, and since we consider it to be reasonable (from James 3:17) we might also reasonably assume that force is not necessary to preach the gospel. Is it fair to say that when force is used to suppress the gospel, resisting that force is appropriate to get the conversation back to reason?

One thing guns do in the hands of defenders is force conversations back to reason. Granny with her .357 magnum pointed at 250 pound burglar boy suggesting he leave the house immediately makes a very reasonable and compelling argument. Even with no shots fired. Reason is the currency.

Just sayin...?

Re: , on: 2014/11/12 15:36

Wow David. Wow!!

Very inspiring story.

Before I comment on all of this, I want to say that talking about this is EASY. This is from the comfort of our own homes and I doubt any of us has had a recent experience of being raided. With that said, I hope in these discussions we get closer to Jesus and His rulership/kingdom.

"As I began to share with other Christians what the Lord was sharing, I met with a lot of resistance. I was asked what would I do if someone broke into my home and was going to harm my wife in some way."
I do feel Jesus' actions and teaching are clear. To do these things: Flee, love your enemy, give someone anything that they ask for, etc.

Now, to Sidewalk's comments on using a weapon as a 'reasonable way' of communicating with someone. I hear you. My entire family is/was military. Almost every branch is covered. I was going to become a US Marine.

There was abuse in my home (non-military mom/step-dad). When one of my family members found out, they gave me a k-bar. I hid it under my bed. Practiced with it. And even pulled it out on one occasion to say, "this needs to stop, NOW."

So, I can relate to your words/advice.

But I'm seeing the thread throughout Scripture, that is, Jesus' teaching of non-violence, is always God's command. (My view is subject to change but...I'm coming close to being solid on this. I just have a few more ideas/thoughts to consider)

David didn't kill Saul, even when he had the opportunity. Peter is rebuked by Jesus in the garden. The sons of thunder were rebuked by Jesus for calling fire down from heaven.

Is. 2:4 "And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war. "

I think the Western Church is of this perverted belief that "we must protect ourselves". This is a lie. God will protect us. If

things happen, we do have some guidance from God; love our enemies, flee from them, turn the other cheek, etc. If we suffer for *doing the right thing* then we will receive a crown and the scriptures say we are blessed.

'The right thing' being turning the other cheek, praying/loving our enemies, etc.

Paul wore his wounds as badges. (2 Cor. 11:23-30)

I think a large part of the body has received these lies. The church of today, doesn't look like the early church. We don't have these wounds we endured. We have comfort and abundance.

Keep in mind, I'm saying 'we' because I'm one part of the problem. I too, have accepted these lies. Lies that 'we must protect ourselves'. We must 'use force, only as a last resort'. We must 'protect others by force'.

I feel God calling me (hopefully you too) to something deeper. Something like Brother David and his story.

Jesus calls us higher and deeper. I'm realizing the Jesus I serve is stretching my heart and soul. Do I always say yes? No. But He is relentless about trying to have all of me.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/16 10:04

This is an example found in Scripture as a "just war"

Gen 14:13

¶

And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

Gen 14:14

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

Gen 14:15

And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

Gen 14:16

And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

Abram formed an alliance with Mamre, Eshcol, and Aner and traveled over 120 miles to rescue Lot.

Then...

Gen 14:18

¶

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Gen 14:19

And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

We find according to Scripture that Melchizedek, king and priest of the God Most High blessed Abram.

Re: Just War - WWJD - posted by Lysa (), on: 2014/11/16 12:25

This isn't necessarily about a "just war" and after reading dfella's testimony, I'd like to give my testimony about being fully persuaded in non resistance. At 19, I moved in my own apartment and in front of the bedroom window was a huge, giant bush that hid the window. One night I had an experience with the Holy Spirit and it is here that starts my testimony.

While sleeping one night, I was awakened as my body was literally raising itself up at the waist while loudly speaking in tongues with an authority I had not experienced at that time. I was speaking in tongues for what seemed like 5 minutes but I'm sure it wasn't that long! Just as quickly as the Holy Spirit started, He stopped.

And at that moment, I heard two voices whispering to each other just outside the bedroom window and then footsteps running. I jumped out of bed & ran to the living room to look out the front window. I heard tires chirp as they took off and saw brake lights as they flew down the road and then around the corner.

Now, like in Acts 2 when they came down out of the upper room and those around them heard and understood their own language, I believe that those guys heard and understood every word that they heard, hence their running to their car and speeding down the road... even though I didn't understand a word.

Since then, I know that I know that I know God can and will take care of me and my family. I'll admit through the years, there's been temptation to "get a gun" for security purposes. I seem to be surrounded by family members and best friends are buying and taking classes for concealed carry permits. I have told them my story but like the Bible and dfella said, "Every man has to be fully persuaded in his own mind." When I am around that gun talk and think about getting a gun, I am always reminded of the night 30 some years ago, the night that my God didn't leave me or forsake me, praise His holy name!

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." ~ Eph 3:20-21

Re: , on: 2014/11/23 14:38

I feel Jesus' message was to not identify with title but with deed.

For example, 'hate your mother and father', 'righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees', 'feed/cloth/serve the least of these'.

We aren't to defend God's name. We aren't to advance God's kingdom via war, strife, division, murder. We are to love and serve. We are called to live a holy life. God will rise up in our stead. God, not man, will rise up in our stead.

I feel that Jesus' was revolutionary in His perspective. "The rain falls on the righteous and the unrighteous". I think Jesus is calling us to be the same. To continuously rain love, peace, joy onto others. To demonstrate the loving God that Jesus showed us.

Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2014/11/24 10:49

Amen Lisa! You use a phrase I use many times, and that is:

"I know, that I know, that I know". When the Holy Spirit of the Lord confirms and quickens that which He wants us to KNOW, we are willing to die for it.

Just as we know that we know that we know Jesus IS the Christ, we are willing to die for HIM.

I am in full agreement and bear witness that the LORD interceded on your behalf sister for I know, that I know, that He did.

The absolute and utter POWER of praying in the Spirit is beyond all human understanding. Our supplications, intercessions, and groanings for ourselves and others in the Spirit of God is so "other than", meaning many may not have a clue a

s to what God is doing in and through us.

Wonderful testimony sister, it brings me great encouragement to hear of such.

Re: , on: 2014/11/24 17:08

Can we go back to the 'Just War' discussion? As, that is the topic at hand. Feel free to start a new thread if you want to discuss being saved and other indirectly related tangents. Thanks!

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/11/25 1:35

Luke 21:14:-"So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; "

My answer is based on the above verse. Jesus clearly wanted us not to prepare beforehand about how to defend ourselves in various situations. I am sure I do not know what I will do if someone puts gun on my 2 years old daughter's head or my beloved wife's head. But I am not going to prepare well ahead for that situation. As Jesus promised in Luke 21, he will give me wisdom to act which no man can comprehend. All those who are getting guns are already making preparation to defend, which is against what Jesus said.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/25 14:48

Sree quoted:

Luk 21:13

â€œBut it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.

Luk 21:14

â€œTherefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer;

Luk 21:15

â€œfor I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

Jesus tells us not to dwell on what we should say when persecution comes from both the religious and civil governments . We are to say, as the prophet, what God wants us to say in the moment that we are asked. The wisdom of God will confound and infuriate those who come against the believer.

In terms of who this applied to, it was to those who lived prior to 70 AD. And Jesus forewarned them to have a plan...

Luk 21:21

â€œThen let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

So the plan was to prepare to flee to the mountains when the destruction was at hand.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/25 14:50

LoveMeekHope asks...

Can we go back to the 'Just War' discussion?

I posted an example given to us in Scripture which confirms that there are "just wars."

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2014/11/25 18:26

Luke 21:14:-"So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;" (I don't know what version this is from)

Luke21:14 KJV "Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer."

It doesn't say don't defend yourself, just don't decide for yourself what you will answer.

Re: - posted by DeanTaylor (), on: 2014/11/25 22:11

Greetings Saints!

This has been an issue that the Lord has brought into my life about 25 years ago.

For me, things started to change when I stood as a soldier at the Berlin wall and shook hands with my "enemy" through the newly made holes. Through this experience and many others, the Lord spoke to me and I began a journey of taking the words of the Lord very seriously.

Im not sure exactly what happened but it was like a light came on in my soul concerning His words. One night I was reading the Sermon on the mount and it was if I heard Jesus simply said, "I mean that." It's like just hit me, "What if Jesus really meant every word He said?"

Since then I have been in love with Jesus more and more and I have tried, by His grace, to put the teachings of Jesus in to as practical and real way that I possibly can. I fail often. But He is merciful with me and His grace in empowering.

If anyone would be interested, I recently was involved in a large debate on this subject in downtown Boston at the historic Faneuil Hall.

Supporting Christian Nonresistance was me (Dean Taylor) and David Bercot. On the Just war side was Peter Kreeft (Ph. D. Fordham University) is professor of philosophy at Boston College.and J. Daryl Charles (Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary).

You can watch the debate here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4xQaDDKY7k>

Oh... and Bro Greg, if you would like to republish the video on sermonindex i'm sure it would be ok. Just let me know and I will get the permission from the moderator.

Just ask yourself, "can a person be a follower of Christ...without following Christ?"

Your brother,
Dean Taylor

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/11/25 22:18

Quote:

-----It doesn't say don't defend yourself, just don't decide for yourself what you will answer.

I used NASB. If Jesus spoke against planning to defend in our verbal answers, then how much more is it applicable in our actions? For example if Verbal accuse is Sin how much more physical abuse.

You just see the letter but ignore the spirit. See the spirit behind the letter as I have seen, which is clearly against defending our self in a pre-planned way.

You did not read my post at all. I never said we should not defend our self, I only said we should not plan to defend our self. This is accordance with scripture. God will at that time tell us what to do. Buying a Gun is a way to defend ourself in a preplanned way, where a person is determined that he is willing to commit murder to defend his life.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/11/25 22:22

Quote:

In terms of who this applied to, it was to those who lived prior to 70 AD. And Jesus forewarned them to have a plan...

See this is your opinion, not scriptural. We cannot separate any scripture from saying it is applicable only to those whom he addresses. Then Sermon on the Mount is applicable only to Jews, Letter of Romans is applicable only to Romans (oops then all our verses of justification is applicable only to Romans!).

As far as I know neither Sermon Index nor the speakers here support your argument of separating verses out of Bible and saying they are not applicable to us. Your comment is better ignored!!!

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/26 6:57

Sree wrote:

"See this is your opinion, not scriptural."

Within this section of Scripture we find this verse which speaks to the time in which Jesus is pointing to.

Luk 21:24

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

With that said, as you point out the precept underlying what Jesus is teaching is for all generations. Those who are His will hear His voice in the time of distress and persecution. He will give us the words to condemn the religious and civil leaders of our day.

The question is will we stand before the leaders in this country and tell them what Jesus has to say to them in the time of persecution? Will men and women stand against evil?

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/11/26 8:35

Quote:

Within this section of Scripture we find this verse which speaks to the time in which Jesus is pointing to.

Luk 21:24

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

As you have quoted, there are certain events that Jesus has said has happened in 70AD, but not all of them. I do not do a detailed study myself! My answer is I am not sure. Generally I am very sceptical when someone points out that the events of end time as said by Jesus have already happened. That is why I have posted little harshly against your post. Forgive me if it has hurt you. In recent times I have not been posting in good spirit.

Let us agree together with what we both agree, as you have quoted below.

Quote:

With that said, as you point out the precept underlying what Jesus is teaching is for all generations.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/26 9:50

Sree wrote:

"As you have quoted, there are certain events that Jesus has said has happened in 70AD, but not all of them."

Yes this is also true. There are minor and major fulfillments of prophesy in Scripture. There are reoccurring works of God in various generations.

Jesus often taught His disciples to be aware of the times in which they lived. He enables every generation to recognize the works of the unrighteous and the righteous. So when we see the religious and civil leaders leading the present generation into deception we know that times of judgement will be at hand.

So...

For some Jesus gives this instruction...

Luk 21:21

⌘Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

Sree, it is often that the Scriptures cause us discomfort and often this discomfort is shared amongst the church. I understand where you are coming from. No offense taken.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2014/11/26 13:36

Brother Dean Taylor,

Thank you for putting up that debate on here. It was good to watch and hear. I think that there were a lot of good points made on either side. I would say you and David made some very strong points against a just war, but the other two made some very strong points against a general non resistance position.

In regard to the non resistance points, there was a principle that came up that was not developed that I thought was very important. It was that you would agree that in the family the parents have authority to discipline and punish their children using physical force if necessary to restrain evil. This would be because parents are the legitimate authority in the family. However you don't agree that the government agencies should use physical force to punish or prevent evil, even though they are the legitimate authority over society. This seems a huge contradiction to me.

One other issue was mentioned, which was the example of Cornelius being a Centurion whom God showed favour to, despite being a Centurion. Your answer on this was to say that God may have shown favour to him, but we don't know that he continued to be a Roman soldier. The point however being missed here (and was not mentioned) is that God said Cornelius was a 'just man' and God took note of his alms and prayers BEFORE he heard or responded to the gospel, while he was an active Centurion soldier. It would appear his being a soldier had no bearing on his standing before God.

Anyway, a great debate and I appreciate your heart on this subject.

Re: , on: 2014/11/26 14:22

As we discuss 'just war', I'd like to state that Jesus wants to save these people from their sin. He wants repentance. He'd rather them to turn from their ways (Ez. 33:11).

I think something relevant to the discussion is something Pope Francis just said, "I never count anything as lost. Never. Never close the door. It's difficult, you could say almost impossible, but the door is always open".

I feel it's God's heart for these people to change their ways. The 'enemy' aren't so lost that we (as a nation, society, or in individuals) must resolve to end their life. Instead, we must demonstrate God's radical love to them and petition that God changes their hearts and minds.

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/pope-francis-says-door-of-dialogue-with-isis-should-never-close-warns-fighting-terrorism-leads-to-deaths-of-innocents-130277/>

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/26 21:35

LoveMeekHope writes:

"The 'enemy' aren't so lost that we (as a nation, society, or individuals) must resolve to end their life. Instead, we must demonstrate God's radical love to them and petition that God changes their hearts and minds."

What of the victims which the enemy kill, do they deserve a chance?

Re: - posted by DeanTaylor (), on: 2014/11/26 21:47

Hey thanks for watching the debate. Also thank you for your very thoughtful reply. There were a lot of points that we wished we had more time to develop. Those two hours went way too fast. You were right that the "other side" made some good arguments against general nonresistance. They came ready to debate a typical "liberal-pacifist" position.

David and I also reject the liberal "pacifist" position. I feel that the "liberal" position has done a lot of damage to the biblical position. Liberal pacifists often explain away the wars in the Old Testament and even reject the coming judgment of the lost.

David and I tried to represent more of an early church (pre-Nicene) position. However, it was difficult to say everything you wanted to say in the short amount of time. If you are interested I wrote a book that discusses many of these points. It is called, "A Change of Allegiance." You can get it on Amazon or you could purchase it from Scrollpublishing.com

Anyway again thanks so much for watching!

What if Jesus really meant every word He said?

Dean

Re: , on: 2014/11/26 21:59

"What of the victims which the enemy kill, do they deserve a chance?"

We are commanded to love everyone. We aren't to be like Jonah but allow everyone a chance to return to the Living/Warrior God.

It sucks that there are victims of man-made wars but we aren't to fight sword with sword. We are to fight them with words of the living God, which is our true and only sword. To the victims, we could rescue them from hostile areas, we could shield them like Rahab did with the spies, there are many non-violent ways to demonstrate love to both the 'enemy' and the victims of war(s).

BTW, Brother Dean, I watched your debate. I feel you could've responded to one of the gentlemen (who asked you what

about hiding the Jews during the Nazi's regimen) you could've spoken of Rahab LYING to others to hide the spies. Yes, she lied. But, she is honored by God in the NT, for her faith.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2014/11/26 22:00

Dean Taylor offered a youtube video of a debate which he participated in. And I found that those who argue for a just war doctrine spend too much time reading what other men think than what Scripture teaches. With that said, I still do not agree with the doctrine of Nonresistance in it's entirety.

Dean Taylor asks this question of the just war panel, do the entirety of Scripture teach that a just war doctrine exists?

First, I have not read any of the writings of the church fathers, I know nothing of Luther, Augustine, Origen, and whoever else was mentioned in the debate. So I do not know what these men mean when one speaks of a just war doctrine.

My first question is, if Scripture testifies that God delivered the enemy into the hands of His elect, does this then qualify the aggression of the elect as being justified?

The following Scripture is a testimony of this precept...

Gen 14:13

¶

And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

Gen 14:14

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

Gen 14:15

And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

In this section of Scripture we find that Abram formed an alliance with two other families and had trained 318 servants from his own and traveled over 150 miles to save his brother's son Lot and his family.

Then we have this testimony in Scripture...

Gen 14:18

¶

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Gen 14:19

And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Gen 14:20

And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

We find that Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God, tells Abram that God "hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand."

Can one say that if God enabled Abram to save Lot and his family, that Abram was justified in what he did?

