

*“A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined”
-George Washington*

The Second Amendment and The Bible

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free-state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

“. . . And He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”

Luke 22:36

“THIS ARTICLE MAY NOT BE POLITICALLY CORRECT.”

The Second Amendment and The Bible

This article is not for the purpose of advocating violence, but is in defense of the proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bible, God’s Holy Word. The truth is, I have never shot anyone and have no intentions of doing so in the future. But as a citizen and a Christian, do I have a God-given right to own a weapon? We hope to answer this question in the following discussion. I have no agenda except “thus saith the Lord.”

“The great objective is that every man be armed.”

-Patrick Henry

THE CONSTITUTION

As a citizen of the United States of America, I have a constitutional right to keep and bear arms. According to the Second Amendment, this right, is not to be infringed upon in any way. The framers of the Constitution simply secured in writing what God had already conferred on every Christian. Our founding fathers understood the relationship between freedom and firearms. They knew that an armed citizenry was essential to a free nation.

An armed populace cannot be unjustly ruled. The American Revolution, in part, was an issue over the right to bear arms. The war was triggered at Concord and Lexington when the British tried to confiscate private arms that American colonists had. The “Bill of Rights” which includes the Second Amendment, came into existence to protect not only the states but also individual citizens from the new federal government. The Bill of Rights, (the first ten amendments) gives to every citizen and individual, protection against any abuse or intrusion of the federal government. If each amendment was to protect the individual’s rights, why should anyone think that the Second Amendment is the only amendment that does not apply? This amendment actually became a safeguard to all other rights.

The Second Amendment simply states the right of the “people” to keep and bear arms which shall not be infringed upon. The word “infringed” means that this right shall not be violated or encroached upon by the government. The word “militia” was understood to be every individual citizen and not an organized standing army or national guard. If there is any doubt as to the original intent and meaning, consider the statements of Richard Henry Lee, Samuel Adams, George Mason, and many other founding fathers. The first ten amendments to the Constitution were passed by Congress, September 15, 1789. But, when the Second Continental Congress passed the first federal law on the subject of the Second Amendment (the militia act of 1792), it did not define the militia of the United States as the Continental Army or any standing army but rather as nearly every able-bodied adult male in the country. This is the constitutional meaning of the word militia. Under this act, each adult male was required by law to have a firearm and at least a minimum supply of ammunition.

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

-Thomas Jefferson

THE BIBLE

As a Christian I have a right and responsibility to protect and defend my family and property according to *I Timothy 5:8*: “***But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel***”. In both Old and New Testament, the Bible is clear on this subject. The Lord is not a pacifist, for in **Exodus 15:3** He is called a “man of war.” In **John 2:15**, Jesus Christ made a whip and drove the money changers out of the Temple.

In the Old Testament, when the first murder was committed (Cain killed Abel, **Genesis 4**), God did not register or put a ban on rocks, clubs, sticks, or knives, but He did deal with the murderer. Beginning in Genesis chapter nine on, God instituted the death penalty to deal with criminals. According to **Exodus 22:2-3**, God gave the right to a man to protect his home. If the intruder was killed, the home owner was not accountable. When God said in **Exodus 20:13**, “Thou shalt not kill”, He is referring to murder, which is, the taking of innocent life. There are some actions that are not considered murder: self-defense, capital punishment, war, the slaying of animals, etc.

The Philistines “disarmed” the Israelites in order to enslave them in **I Samuel 13:19-22**. No blacksmiths were allowed lest they make weapons such as spears and swords. In order to control people, they must be disarmed. Every evil government in the world understands this. In **Nehemiah 4:13-17**, Nehemiah and those who rebuilt the gates and walls of Jerusalem after the captivity in Babylon were armed. They were both builders and defenders.

In the New Testament we also have the right of self-defense and the right to bear arms. In **Matthew 5:38-39**, some think “**turning the other cheek**” means to never defend yourself. The context is simply dealing with retaliation and not whether a person can protect his life. The Lord was simply saying that “**an eye for an eye**” was a judicial principle and not an individual right (**Exodus 21:24**). We are not allowed to take vengeance upon another person; that is the civil government’s responsibility. But we do have the right of self-defense when our life is in danger.

The Lord told Peter in **Matthew 26:51-54**, to put his **sword** into “his place”. According to **John 18:11**, that **place** was the **sheath**,

not throwing it away or melting it down, or selling it to the police. This was not the proper time and place to use the sword, for it was the will of God that Jesus be taken and crucified for the sins of the world.

According to **Luke 22:35-38**, just a few hours before Peter was told to put his sword away, the Lord told His disciples (including Peter) to buy a sword. Jesus did not contradict Himself nor did He change His mind. They were to use the sword to protect their lives from danger, but were not to use it to stop Christ from going to the Cross.

Keep in mind, the **sword** was the best offensive weapon for a soldier. It was equivalent to our military rifles, shotguns, and handguns that we have today.

*“The Constitution shall never be construed. . .
to prevent the people of the United States
who are peaceable citizens from keeping
their own arms.*

-Samuel Adams