

#11 THE DOCTRINE OF WAR

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

- Many (especially younger) Christians today are adopting a pacifist, anti-war worldview.
- The opposite of a pacifist is *not* a war monger.
- The opposite of war is *not* always peace.
- Our desire is to have a Biblical worldview. To have such a view, we need to understand the Biblical teaching on war and peace.

THE BIBLE COMMENDS GOVERNMENT FOR THE SWORD

- Genesis 9:6 –
 - this revelation starts a new dispensation, that of *government*.
 - The sole Biblical purpose of the government is the punishment of murderers.
 - The sole Biblical justice of murderers is death.
- Romans 13:4 –
 - The government is the **minister of God** to **execute wrath**.
 - This was written under a cruel Roman regime.

THE BIBLE COMMENDS WARFARE FOR THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

- Genesis 15:1 –
 - Abraham was told to **fear not** and was going to receive an **exceedingly great reward**.
 - What was this great reward for? The previous chapter is a chapter about WAR and Abraham's involvement in that war.
 - God rewarded Abraham with the presence of Melchizedek and the promise of Isaac and a great nation, leading into the context of the famed verse about belief, Genesis 15:6.
- If God rewarded Abraham for protecting the rights of others for war, this should be part of our Biblical worldview, and a pacifist approach would not align.

THE BIBLE COMMENDS WARFARE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ISRAEL.

- Numbers 32:20-24
 - God promised the tribes of Ruben and Gad righteousness and possessions if they would go to war for the other tribes.
 - The words of Numbers 32:22 are as clear as the words of Genesis 15:16, and both are in the context of war.

- The doctrine of personal, individual, die-and-go-to-heaven salvation is not found in these verses.

- Zechariah 1:14-15 – God's jealousy has not ceased.

THE BIBLE COMMENDS WARRIORS AS MEN OF HONOR

- Acts 10:1 – Cornelius was the first gentile approached with the message of acceptance into the things of God.
- Exodus 15:3 and Psalm 24:8 – The identity of God contains the idea of war.

THE BIBLE PROCLAIMS WARFARE AS A WAY OF LIFE

- A "make love not war" worldview is that if—
 - We loved people
 - We educated and clothed and housed people
 - Then war would never be necessary
- Judges 3:1-2 –
 - God wanted future generations of His chosen nation to learn warfare.
- Psalm 144:1
 - God is the model for the training of the warrior.
- A nation that does not train warriors will be a nation that is always dependent upon the benevolence and proximity of good neighbors.

THE BIBLE PORTRAYS JESUS AS A WARRIOR

- A Biblical view of Jesus must be complete.
- Jesus is not a peace-loving hippie.
- Matthew 10:34 – these are the words of Jesus Himself.
- Revelation 1:16, 2:12, 3:16, 19:13-16 – the full picture of Jesus.

OUR WORLD

- Longfellow was right: "Hate is strong and mocks the song of 'Peace on earth good will to men.'"
- Our Lord is going to bring that peace, but He will do so through war.
- The best and most Biblical approach to war is to recognize it as the task of governments.
- The best way to mitigate the need for wars is to build good societies with good governments. Those governments should be filled with men and women who have a fully Biblical worldview.
 - Some in history so understood that Government had the Biblical role of warfare that they taught that Christians should not be involved in Government, assuming that the warfare role was for unbelievers.
- The worst way to build a peaceful society is to disarm.