

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously: Who His own Self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:21-25 KJV



Much is to be said about resisting evil forcefully. Jesus told His disciples before His death, *“He that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, ‘And He was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.’ And they said, ‘Lord, behold, here are two swords.’ And he said unto them, ‘It is enough.”* Two swords enough against the Roman army? Paul the apostle explains with my favorite rhetorical question; *“If God be for us who can be against us?”* If God is for me, I don’t even need a sword, but one is enough to demonstrate intent. If you come to harm my family or force me to comply with evil laws against God, then, yes, I will forcefully resist you and trust my life to the safekeeping of God who is *“for me.”* If you fight against one of God’s own, you fight against God and you will be destroyed! Pharaoh learned that lesson too late as the Red Sea closed eternally over him and his army! He writhes in torment this very moment regretting for eternity the pride that put him in hell’s black death! I do not need to threaten my tormentors. I need simply to align myself with Truth and God will fight for and with me as I resist wickedness. Death is no threat to believers! It is the doorway to eternal bliss! Why would I dread or fear it? While being held at gunpoint in a hotel elevator, John R. Rice looked down over his glasses at the thief and said, *“Son, you can’t threaten me with heaven!”* I believe in the right to own and bear arms for defence of my God-given rights and family! I am much like the old Quaker who told the burglar, *“I would not harm thee for the world, my friend, but thee art standing where I am about to shoot!”* I will warn, but not budge! That being said, Jesus came to die for our sins, so He did not resist His captors as they unwittingly fulfilled His plan. *“Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.”* Christ defeated death and hell by dying! In His weakest moment of humanity He *“[blotted] out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it”* by ripping open His tomb and *“many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the Holy City (Jerusalem), and appeared unto many.”* He not only raised His own body from the grave but those of others as well! I think God can handle anything man can throw at me and my family! If fight with God at my side, I can’t lose! Not even death is a threat!

I’ve hid in Christ my life and soul,
Where wickedness can take no toll,
With His power I am kept whole,
When evil billows o’er me roll! ~CGP

To stand and fight, one must have sure footing. Upon what do you stand for your hope of eternity beyond the grave? What men have said? Or upon what God has said? Wicked men will say the Bible is not God’s Word, so you must decide to either believe them or find out by reading it for yourself. Have you? Read it all? With an open

mind? Many quote portions they've heard from others without actually reading it themselves. God knows your thoughts before you think them and why you did! What will you tell God when He asks why you didn't know His Word or if you did, why you rejected it? Upon what will you stand then?

“For THE WORD OF GOD is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and IS A DISCERNER OF THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPENED UNTO THE EYES OF HIM with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:12-13 KJV

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