

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



“The Right to Bear Arms: Are You Packin’

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Jesus Gives Right to Bear Arms

One of the hot topics for political leaders, churches, and the general public today is “Gun-Control. In recent years there have been ten shootings in churches, alongside an increase of misuse of firearms and other harmful weapons – such as knives - in public places. Shootings we hear about have occurred in all parts of the country and have little in common. The common denominator in these shootings is this, they are happening in places where people are least likely able to defend themselves against those who desire to kill and destroy. As long as churches, schools, post offices, and government buildings are perceived as “soft-targets,” assailants who are intent on killing as many people as possible will continue to attack such places. Now is not the time to reject the teachings of Jesus Christ and put trust in the conjecture of mankind.

Simple observation reveals to us, that from the time of the Lord’s Last Supper and into present day, we live in perilous times. It is clear; the police cannot protect everyone from evil forces, often they arrive after the fact. It is clear; the Armed Forces cannot camp on every doorstep to protect the masses in times of disasters or civil unrest. The fact is, in Luke 22:36, “Jesus gave us truths we

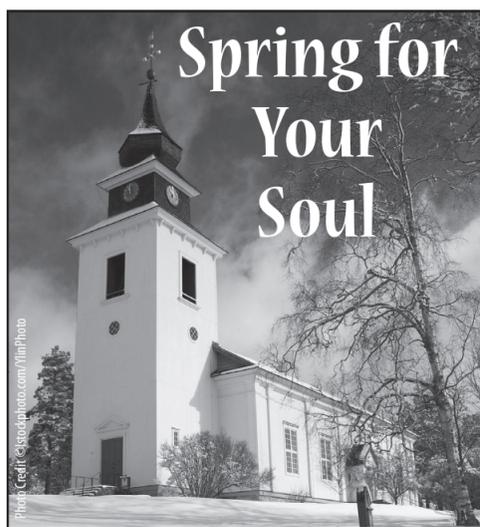
desperately need to know as we live in a sin-cursed, hostile world” (Wiersbe, W.W. 1996, c1989). Jesus said, “This is different. Get ready for trouble. Look to what you’ll need; there are difficult times ahead. Pawn your coat and get a sword. (The Message Bible) What He teaches the disciples then is also for us today. They would – and we today – need a “sword” for

personal protection. A “sword” (μάχαιρα máchaira), originally a large knife for killing... was a curved weapon for close combat. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament; Theological Dictionary of the New Testament; Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains) The sword in Luke 22:36 is not for a vigilante style of justice, but for

provision and protection in this life. In contemporary society, a “sword” relates to owning a gun, or other similar weapon, to use for provision and protection of life.

An elderly lady declared, “No one would ever carry a gun in our church!” These words were heard by a pastor of a mid-size church in a rural community. The pastor engaged the older lady in conversation, “There are likely several concealed handgun license holders present in the congregation and their presence [is] reassuring, should anything happen which might require a response of force.” After a few minutes of dialog, the woman gained a new understanding, it was the very people she had worked with, gone to church with, people she knew and trusted, who have taken seriously the responsibility of carrying a firearm (Luke 22:36) for defense of self and others. (The Concealed Handgun; Volume 12, Number 1 February - March 2008 – Official Bi-Monthly Publication of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association).

The Bible holds a teaching of Christ that prepares us to live in these present days. Luke 22:36 says, “...if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one” (Luke 22:36, New International Version).



Spring for Your Soul

In the middle of winter, the foliage of fall is but a memory and the freshness of spring seems so far away. How do we get through the darkest season of the year? There is a way. Truly, as we enter God’s house each week, we come into a welcome atmosphere of warmth where we can sit and rest our work-worn bodies and bask in the glory of our Heavenly Father’s love... where we can experience spiritual renewal. Worship this week; you will find spring for your soul.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Luke 20:1-18

Luke 20:19-44

Luke 20:45-21:4

John 3:1-21

John 3:22-36

1 John 1:1-10

1 John 2:1-17

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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