

## **Freedom and Forgiveness is Never Free**

Proverbs 14:34

“Righteousness exalts a nation,  
But sin is a reproach to any people.” NKJV

“Righteousness exalts a nation,  
But sin is a disgrace to any people.” NAS

“God-devotion makes a country strong;  
God-avoidance leaves people weak.” The Message

We take our freedom for granted. Here we sit today, praying, singing, fellowshiping, worshipping God together, reading His Word...without fear of reprisal, intimidation, persecution, and with no restriction from the government, whatsoever. It is a blessing we very much take for granted.

We came to this country, not for freedom of speech, but freedom of religion! (Article 1).

First and foremost, we came here for freedom of religion, and for that reason it tops the list of amendments, and is intertwined throughout our constitution.

III.—people in China, N. Korea, Sudan, several Palestinian countries, etc., risk their life in attending underground churches.

War is a regrettable thing...although necessary...no one in their right mind likes war, and nobody wants to go to war. War is not glamorous/romantic, though Hollywood often tries to portray it as such. War is a terrible thing, a regrettable thing...but, there are some things that are worse than war...

As the global war on terrorism continues, and many call for us to pull out and give up, let's answer this very important question:

How should believers look upon war?

What should be our attitude toward our nation continuing this war?

Where are we going to get our answers about war?

Well, we won't get right answers from the bleeding heart liberals who are afraid of going to war or warmongers like Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda...who desire war.

The right answers about war are found only in the Word of God. There are believers today who say that war is ALWAYS wrong. “Christians are to be peacemakers” they say. (love everybody/turn the other cheek)

In every war in our history, from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, there have been people who would not go, and would not support the effort, calling themselves “conscientious objectors”. And then they try to use the Bible as their defense. They do not understand 2 important things:

1. What the Bible really does teach about war
2. The nature of human nature

Back in the 70’s the hippies said, wouldn’t it be wonderful if there was a war and nobody showed up! Well, someone will always show up, and you may not like it, because they are there to take away your freedom!

During Vietnam they burned the flag and protested saying, “make love, not war”. *The hippies were not the brightest crayons in the box.* For if they had just thought about it, they’d realize that many people died in WW II, just so they could have their little demonstrations and protests...and they’d realize that when they burn that flag it is a gross and senseless act for any American to take part in!

You can stand at the Lincoln Memorial and preach and protest...that’s your right, but if you begin to paint that monumental symbol, you’ll be arrested. So why couldn’t the Senate approve the flag burning ban? The flag is the main symbol of who we are? For me when you burn the flag it’s no longer speech, it’s a treasonous action you are taking and you should go to jail!

If everyone in WW II had believed the way the hippies believed, they wouldn’t have been going around saying, “Peace, love and flowers”...they would have said, “Hile Hitler!” as slaves to his Nazi regime!

It is foolish and wicked to desire war, but it’s foolish and naïve to think that war is always avoidable. For there are wicked people in this world that will kill, steal, and destroy without blinking an eye...that’s the human nature, the sin nature, unleashed!

Please don’t get the idea that the more advanced man becomes technologically, that the more educated we become, the more civilized we become, that we become more mellow and kind...that is not what the Bible teaches...rather, that’s humanism: “man’s getting better and better.”

Jesus said in Mt. 24 that in the last days there shall be wars and rumors of wars, and kingdom shall rise against kingdom, and nation against nation, not that things would get more and more peaceful! (rumors of wars=threats, terrorists)

II Tim. 3:13 “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Jesus is the One Who will end all wars.

He is the One Who will be able to proclaim, “The War for People’s Souls Has Been Won!” But there will be no peace on earth, until the Prince of Peace arrives! **But until that day arrives, this is a fallen world, for we all have a fallen nature...and there will be war!**

Is it ever right Biblically for a nation to go to war? And should a believer participate? The clear answer to both questions is yes!

There are times when the Lord actually encourages, and even commands nations to go to war. “fight the good fight...”

For though war is regrettable, there are worse things than war, things which can sometimes be prevented only by war!

Some people say Vietnam was wrong because it wasn’t our war. Now they’re saying it about Iraq...but again, that statement is naïve. Some of us are too young to remember, but many of you will remember that the communists made no bones about it, their goal was world domination...it was fight us now or fight us later...on your own soil! (same with Iraq and Al-Qaeda)

**Freedom isn’t free.** And while God is against personal vengeance/retaliation, He does allow a nation to defend itself, and protect the freedom of the people...all people!

God is for war if it’s a righteous cause!

Aren’t you glad we have stayed the course, and that Saddam is out of the picture? Zarqawi? These were men that protesters were trying to protect!

(Rosie O Donald./Martin Sheen...they said, we want to be human shields!...I say, ok, let them do it )

We are here today because men and women of the United States military have given their lives for our freedom. We are not here today because Sheryl Crowe, George Clooney, Jane Fonda or Phil Donahue sacrificed their lives.

If my memory serves me correctly, it was not movie stars or musicians, but the United States Military who fought on the shores of Iwo Jima, the jungles of Vietnam, and the beaches of Normandy. (A small amount of movie stars, musicians, and athletes did enlist and serve in our militaries and for their service we are grateful.)

I say we should tell the liberals in Hollywood to go make their movies and music and whine somewhere else. After all, if they lived in Iraq, they wouldn't be allowed the freedom of speech they're being given here today. Ironically, they would have been put to death at the hands of a Saddam Hussein or Zarqawi.

I can't understand how the very people who are against war because of the loss of life, can possibly be the same people who are for abortion? They are the same people who are for animal rights but against the rights of the unborn.

On December 7, 1941, there are no records of movie stars treading the blazing waters of Pearl Harbor. On September 11, 2001; there are no photos of movie stars standing as "human shields" against the debris and falling bodies ascending from the World Trade Center. There were only policemen and firemen-underpaid civil servants who gave their all with nothing expected in return.

Throughout the course of history, this country has remained free, not because of movie stars and liberal activists, but because of brave men and women who hated war too. They hated war but were willing to they lay down their lives so that oppression and tyranny would end and we could live in freedom.

We should give our military honor and acknowledgement and not let their deaths be in vain. If you want to see true human shields, walk through Arlington Cemetery. There lie human shields, heroes, and the BRAVE Americans who didn't get on television and talk about being a human shield - they were human shields.

Thank God we have a few leaders that have risen to say, if the UN won't do it's job, and even if we stand alone...we will do the right thing and free these people!

We can pray for our troops with confidence, as this is a righteous cause! And we should be willing to continue to battle for the right, whether an end is in sight or not!

Some say this war is about oil. They scream "no blood for oil!" (yet only 2.3% do we get from Iraq, acc'd to the energy info. admin.) And 90% of the profits today in Iraq are helping the new gov't build itself up!

Fact is, most protesting these wars are not as anti-war, as they were anti-George Bush!

("but, we can't be the policemen of the world!" they say)

I ask you...if we don't free those people, who will? (the French?)

So what can we do?

## 1. Pray for peace.

**I Tim. 2:1-5** “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,”

## 2. Pray for our troops...for freedom isn't free!

## 3. Pray for our leaders.

And, most importantly,

## 4. Pray for a national revival.

In the Bible, righteousness and peace are linked together.

Deut. 32:31 **“For their rock *is* not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves *being* judges.”**

When our nation is right with God, we're standing on the Rock, but when we're not right with God, we're on sinking sand.

## God is our defender, and we'd better not forget that!

The Bible says, **“some trust in chariots and some trust in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord!”**

We can point our finger at Al Qaeda for shedding innocent blood...but we've got 3 fingers pointing back at us! (abortion holocaust!) We should be praying everyday about that! For every one we kill, the meter is running, and God's will be collecting the debt!

Oftentimes God will use war as a judgment against a nation. You read the history of the nation of Israel, for 490 years they were not right with God, they were rebellious in many ways, and it was all rooted in their refusal to observe the Sabbath day, and what did God do? He allowed the armies of Nebuchadnezzar to invade and take them captive for 70 years...ah! Their Sabbath debt was paid in full!

We need to pray for a national revival, and in these last days, it could happen!  
**Freedom isn't free and neither is revival!**

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I thank God for freedom - - those who bought and paid for it with their lives in the past -  
- those who will protect it in the present and defend it in the future.

America has remained silent too long! God-fearing people have remained silent too long!

We must lift our voices united in a humble prayer to God for guidance and the strength and courage to sustain us throughout whatever the future may hold.

So, let us stand proud, and let us be the human shields of prayer, encouragement and support for our President to make Godly decisions, for our troops and their families and our country.

May God bless America, the land of the free, the home of the brave and the greatest country on the face of this earth!

Jesus said in Jn. 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Then Jesus did just that, laid down His life, for you and me. That war is already won, if you are on the winning side! If you aren't saved, it's spiritual freedom that you need, and it was purchased for you at a very high price.

Raise your hand today if spiritual freedom is what you need. Will you pay the small price of coming forward and being saved? To be baptized? To re-commit your life to Jesus? To join this little Church?

Christians: We need to meet God in prayer today for our nation, for peace, for our military, and for revival.