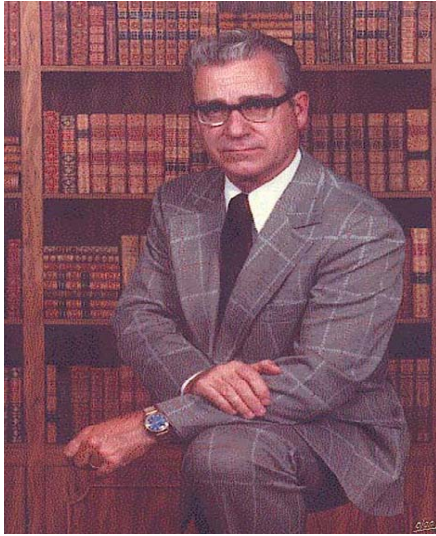


Arms & Self-Defense

by Sheldon Emry



1926 — 1985

I think, perhaps, the best way to approach this subject is to first read what Pastor Sheldon Emry had to say in his Answering Service Publication from the year 1981. In issue No. 11, dated July 4, 1981, he dealt with the question as follows:

Question: Does the Bible authorize Christians to use weapons to defend themselves?

Answer:

Those of us who teach that there is no “pretribulation rapture (or removal)” of the Christians from the earth, and therefore Christians will go through a time of “tribulation,” are often asked this question.

My answer to that question is a decided “Yes.” Until 20 years ago this question was hardly ever asked by Christians. It was commonly-accepted by them that they had a personal responsibility for the safety of their families; which responsibility included, if necessary, the use of weapons and violence against those who attempted to harm them. None even thought of the idea that Christians were to be disarmed or helpless to defend themselves.

However, in the last 30 years, Christians have been confused by the

contradictory statements made to them and about them in relation to guns, weapons, self-defense, etc.; especially with what amounts to propaganda, that Christians are always to be “meek,” “turn the other cheek,” “not resort to violence,” “accept wrong,” “love everybody” — and the more direct anti-gun claims that it is somehow evil for a Christian to have weapons in his home for self-defense.

Part of this confusion is due to the ignorance of the Christians of the nature of man. The “love” doctrines taught in many churches imply that all men are “good,” that it is only when we Christians “hate” someone that those persons react to our “hatred,” “bigotry,” or “racism” and threaten us or harm us. If that premise were true, then to be safe from harm, all a Christian would have to do is “turn on the love” toward his antagonist or enemy, and no harm would result. However, God's Holy Word warns Christians that most men do NOT respond to love or kindness, and in fact, are repelled by it and hate the person who offers love and righteousness.

The hatred of most men toward righteousness is simply not understood by Christians; and they, therefore, cannot understand or grasp that a “war” is being waged, both openly and secretly, against Christians by those who hate righteousness. Because the churches do not warn them of this hatred, most Christians do not know that there are many humans so evil they actually enjoy carrying out policies that bring destruction to followers of Christ.

To help you understand this secret hatred these wicked conspirators have against Christians, we will look to the Holy Word of God for this warning to us that wicked men hate and desire to kill righteous men. This should give you a better understanding of why Jesus told His disciples in **Luke 22**, that after He left them, *“He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.”*

In **1 John 3:12**, we are told why Cain slew his brother, Abel: *“because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.”* We make the mistake of thinking no man would hate us unless we had done him some wrong. That is absolutely not true. God warns us that wicked men hate righteous men simply because they hate righteousness. The hatred of these anti-Christians is not directed at Christians because the Christians have wronged them, but because they simply hate righteousness!

Here are some additional Words of God about “the wicked:”

“The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor. . . the wicked. . . blesseth the covetous. The wicked. . . will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. His ways are always grievous. . . He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved. . .”

Ps. 10:2-6

Now you know why the antichrists sing the song, “We Shall Not Be Moved.”

“The wicked plotteth against the just and gnasheth upon him (speaks against him) with his teeth. . . The wicked have drawn out the sword. . . to slay such as be of upright conversation. . . The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.”

Psalms 37:12, 14, 32

Have you been taught by your church that the haters of Jesus Christ and of Christians will be converted? Hear this:

“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.”

Psalms 58:3

David knew what God would do with the wicked:

“Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God.”

Ps. 139:19

Should we love the wicked and even those who hate our God? We are told that by many churches today. However, listen to what King David wrote of his feelings toward them:

“Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate Thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against Thee? I hate them with a perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.”

Ps. 139:21,22

Did Jesus Christ teach that those who hated Him would be saved? No, Jesus said,

“But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before Me.”

Luke 19:27

Peter and James both referred to the wicked as “brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed,” and said that the mists (or blackness) of darkness was reserved for them forever! Neither conversion nor resurrection has been promised to those who hate Jesus Christ, but instead-destruction and an end.

Editors addition:

Most Christians are familiar with the instruction given by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper.

35. And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.

36. Then said he unto them, But now, 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.

37. 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.

38. And they said; Lord, behold here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

Luke 22:35-38

In the next verse, Jesus, followed by the disciples, went to mount of Olives. It is interesting to note that the last instruc-

tions given by Jesus at the table of the Last Supper, had to do with the buying of armament.

It is, also, of interest that he confirmed that **two** swords were enough for the 12 disciples. Jesus had the wisdom to know that, had all 12 been armed with swords, they might have been tempted to do something beyond self-defense.

The two swords among 12 men were, apparently for defense purposes only. Even then, when the multitude came and laid hands on Jesus, one of his disciples drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priests, cutting off his ear!

50. and Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands of Jesus, and took him.

51. And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

52. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Matthew 26:50-52

Here, we have further proof that it was the intent of Jesus that the disciples only be armed for defensive purposes. It behooves everyone to remember our survival preparations are to be for defensive purposes. Many times Almighty God admonishes us that the fight is His.

It is common for Bible scholars to wonder and discuss the swords referred to in Matthew. Because of the time and place in history, most opinion is the swords mentioned in the previous Scripture, were Roman Short Swords. They were carried much as we carry handguns today.

The Roman Short Sword or Gladius as it is sometimes called, is a short stabbing sword with a blade between 20-24 inches and about 2 inches wide with an unguarded hilt.

The tang normally consists of three pieces, a rounded hilt, a grip and a bulbous pommel.

From the lessons of history, the Roman Short Sword was used both for thrusting and slashing. From the Biblical account, it was used in a chopping fashion. Having both edges sharpened, it was a formable weapon.

Had the Last Supper occurred in 2010, Jesus most-likely would have instructed his disciples to sell their garments and buy a couple of 1911 Colt .45 Gov. models.

However, at 2010 prices, your garments had better have golden threads in them. I can just see walking into a gun shop, throwing your tattered sport jacket on the counter and informing the owner that you want to swap even for that new 1911 Colt in the show case!



Short Swords seem to have been available in about every shape you could desire, including the fancy sword and sheath shown below.

