

## Articles and Sermons :: Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by J. C. Wenger

**Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by J. C. Wenger - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 9:27**

Nonresistant and Nonpolitical

Part of the vision which captured the hearts and minds of the original Anabaptists of Zurich, Switzerland, some four centuries ago was the separation of church and state.

This meant among other things that the founders of our brotherhood held that the church ought to be wholly detached from the state. The Gospel should be preached "freely," not under the control or even protection of the state, for the state ought not to take a position of favoring one faith and suppressing or persecuting the adherents of other views. Church and state were to be utterly separate in personnel, means of entrance, function, means, and end. The church was to be made up of the converted and committed disciples of the Lord Jesus, while the state served all men by maintaining law and order. The state is entered by the natural birth, but the church by the new birth. The state employs law and the threat of force, while the church relies on the power of the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

It is the function of the church to proclaim the Word of God, to win the lost to Christ, and to nurture those who turn to Him. It is the function of the state to restrain evildoers and to assume some responsibility for what might be called the "natural life" of its citizens. The only sanction of the church beyond brotherly rebuke is the excommunication of the impenitent, while the state has weapons to curb the criminal, and may deprive him of his liberty. The head of the state is a mere man, while the Head of the church is none other than Jesus Christ. One corollary of this doctrine of separation of church and state is that the state as state has no voice in the control and direction of the church. The church must heed its own Head, Christ, and obey His Word, the sacred Scriptures.

The other corollary is a twofold one: (1) the church can not ask the state to turn aside from its role of promoting public order by demanding that it follow the ethic of the church; and (2) the church is nevertheless responsible to uphold before all men the will of God that men should live by love, and that justice should be administered in all human relationships. This first half of the second corollary means that for nonresistant Christians, any office in the state which involves the use of violence and the possibility of taking human life (constabulary, military, and magistracy-for the death penalty is sometimes imposed by judges) is not a possible option. Mennonites, have therefore historically felt unable to serve in those three areas, as police officers, as soldiers, and as judges who must administer the laws of the land, and who must even send criminals to the gallows.

The second half of the second corollary is the difficult one to apply in a modern democracy. Surely the church needs more than ever to give its witness against every form of injustice, whether it be against the maltreatment of the poor by the rich or the maltreatment of minorities by the majority. It is in proper order for individual Christians, for congregations, and for conferences to speak out in favor of justice and against all unrighteousness. This obligation is clear, and increasingly in recent decades our brotherhood has sought to be faithful in this area, especially through the General Conference.

Something else needs to be said at present, however, and it needs to be said clearly and emphatically. The central function of the church of Christ is not merely to try to abolish all forms of evil and injustice. The most basic function of the church is to proclaim the everlasting Gospel to the salvation of men and their gathering into the blessed fold of the redeemed. Our supreme guide here is the teaching and example of our Lord and His apostles. First-century Christianity was dynamic; it began an amazing transformation of human society-a transformation which turned the world right side up: but it did so not by political methods but by the faithful proclamation of the Word of God.

Many citizens cannot do any more than employ political methods, but the people of God can. They can use the radio and the pulpit; they can establish Sunday schools and mission stations; they can and must fulfill the function which only the church can fulfill. That function is to make Christ known. And as men come to know Christ, they will in turn be transformed.

Society surely needs to be regenerated. But the regeneration it most needs can never be achieved by passing laws and taking political action. The only regeneration which will ever truly change men is individual regeneration. Christ's primary

message today is therefore, LET THE CHURCH BE THE CHURCH!-

-J. C. Wenger.

From the GOSPEL HERALD, MARCH 15, 1966

**Re: Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by JESUS, on: 2008/5/17 10:05**

Luke 7:6-10

He was not far from the house when the **centurion** sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 **For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

**9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."**

**Re: Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by JESUS - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/17 13:49**

Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by JESUS

Matthew 5:1-16

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:38-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6:9-15

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 26:52

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.

John 18:36

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Luke 23:34

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We are simply to do and teach what he has said and taught by HIS example.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 14:35**

Quote:

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pastorfrin wrote:

Matthew 5:38-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you,

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But I say unto you....there we have the change from the old to the new....

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 15:04**

Quote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

Quote:

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pastorfrin wrote:

Matthew 5:38-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you,

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But I say unto you....there we have the change from the old to the new....

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I know you are intelligent enough and biblically knowledgeable enough to know both of the scriptures given(mine and yours) were spoken by Jesus.

Jesus' never cancels anything out from one scripture to another scripture. It is all in perfect harmony. Both you and I and Jesus were referring to we should not as an individual should not repay evil for evil as in taking one's life in anger.

Myself and Jesus is referring to a military man's faith in the Son of God and obeying the authority God has placed over him to serve and protect against in an evil world and having faith in the Son of God Jesus while he was serving in that capacity. Brother I wished your theory would work now. I would be all for it and be preaching with you if a military was not necessary and I believed that was what Jesus said, but we know this side of heaven that is not a reality and if it were Jesus would have spoke about it other than the things He told us we He spoke He spoke to the center and through the Holy Spirit brought into remembrance those things for the Apostles to write for our guidance now.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 15:57**

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

I would like to know from scripture how you kill someone of your enemies as a soldier in an army and while you're doing it love them at the same time.

the whole thing falls if you don't accept the theology of martyrdom. I know the objections "what if someone attacks our nation" or if someone comes into my home, or if this or that happens.

What then?

By God's grace we die.

I know all don't have that light but that's what I believe is right.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

If we are translated from this world to Jesus' kingdom we don't belong in this world,

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Mat 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

So many Christians serve their nation and not God, they swear an abomination oath to their government and promise faithfulness.

Or by voting trying to build a "better" kingdom here upon earth, instead of

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Do we desire a better country? or we are simply happy to start building it here instead.

It's interesting Jesus once had the opportunity to be king on earth. He refused it.

Satan offered him the kingdoms, he refused it.

but so many are building nations and kingdoms here on earth. Getting involved.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead

d, be ye reconciled to God.

I am an ambassador here on earth on behalf on another kingdom, i dont get tangled up in its affairs, I dont wear their uniform, if your American ambassador in Sweden should start wearing Swedish uniform, buy a house, and start voting in Sweden, you would label him a traitor.

I know many quote Romans,

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

But Paul didnt write this to a Christian, or talking about a Christian. He probably meant Nero, a christian murderer and persecutor.

But even these are Gods servant the ungodly leaders and nations serve God, even Usama bin laden was Gods servant even as Nebuchadrezzar was.

Jer 25:9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. . The Word of God shows God uses these men for his will as he will.

God will do justice with these wicked rulers, not we. We dont need fight because God will

Jer 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

some reformers did as they were burning and drowning people. Some made crusades and slaughtered people with bible verses.

Not much has changed today, we still have christian "nations" making wars (crusades)

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

We still fight, our method has changed.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

we dont fight those with guns and bombs. This war are we called to

Satan has so many laboring under an old testament understanding of the kingdom.

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 16:03**

Quote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

Satan has so many laboring under an old testament understanding of the kingdom.

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If you knew your Bible well enough you would that the passage about Jesus and the centerion is in the New Testament and not just be arguing for the sake of argument and hard headedly staying with the theology you were taught while you were growing up.

At the least you would make an effort to stay with the passage mentioned and tell me how Jesus rebuked the soldier explain to me where I was missing it. Instead you get off on a rabbit trail because it is the only way you can even remotely appear as though you have a valid case in your argument.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 16:11**

Quote:

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moe\_mac wrote:

Quote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

Satan has so many laboring under an old testament understanding of the kingdom.

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If you knew your Bible well enough you would that the passage about Jesus and the centerion is in the New Testament and not just be arguing for the sake of argument on staying with the theology you were taught while you were growing up.

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You are assuming much brother.

I didnt grow up Christian, i didnt hear the name Jesus ever mentioned to me my first 20 years of my life.

By Gods grace i have known the Lord almost three years, he has been good tyo me reveling much to me through his holy word and his people.

These things has come to be my conviction from reading the bible and looking at church history and reading other Godly mens writings and teachings.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 16:15**

Quote:  
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moe\_mac wrote:  
At the least you would make an effort to stay with the passage mentioned and tell me how Jesus rebuked the soldier explain to me where I was missing it. Instead you get off on a rabbit trail because it is the only way you can even remotely appear as though you have a valid case in your argument.  
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I am sorry, i will do my best to stay with your verses, i will post later brother

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 16:35**

Quote:  
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hmmhmm wrote:  
  
Quote:  
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edited: corrected some spelling and grammar errors, some errors I'm sure remain, but you get the general drift.  
moe\_mac wrote:  
At the least if you would make an effort to stay with the passage in question and just tell exactly how you arrive at Jesus rebuked the soldier. Please explain to me how I was missing it. Maybe cause it is not there. Instead of using the sword, you get off on a rabbit trail because it is the only way you can even remotely appear as though you have a valid case in your argument.  
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I am sorry, i will do my best to stay with your verses, i will post later brother  
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I got to hand to you, you persistent in attempting to prove your theology. That rabbit trail methods and there is one other method often used (not you but others) and that is, to use so many adjectives and big words that the normal everyday reader don't have a clue what you wrote or said. Many people write in such a manner, repetitiously using multiple adjectives and always big words that are rarely used in the norm. Their posts are so eloquent, example of what I'm saying, if they are writing about rain and giving a description of the a rain storm, when you finished reading the post, you would not know whether they were saying it was raining or not raining. I am referring to all that gobble gobble they write that and not giving God's Word with it. God's Word warns of us all of such methods of deception. Paul said I did come to you with excellent speech and goes to warn of those that do. Know anyone that does that?

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/17 16:47**

You can speak out clearly brother if you are saying something at me. I am referring to "know anyone?"

I can take a rebuke if i did this evil thing you say i did. Do you think my rabbit trail as you call it has no "meat" in it? is it not according to what the sum of the bible teach?

I am concerned about what you believe, since i believe you are wrong, hence i try and prove you are wrong with scripture, and some short comments on them for you. You don't listen. And you don't have to.

you have been brought up in a country that often times has a flag next to a cross in their church.

I think we have all been one way or the other been brainwashed by our society what to think and believe. i know i have and i do my best by God's grace to root out any Swedish in me that might go against God's word.

we need to wash that out with the word of God.

even if it goes against what you were brought up with in believing.

**Re: - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2008/5/17 16:52**

Quote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

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Amen, brother. Often this process of "washing out" is very painful, but **IF** we love the truth, more than our pride (personal or national) the Lord will bring us to light, sooner or later. I hope it will not be too much later!

**Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/5/17 17:45**

Hello...

I understand why the overseers of this website wish to prohibit the discussion of politics. It isn't because they believe that we are supposed to cut off every tie to the manner in which this world operates. We still pay taxes. Our Administrator, Greg, is forced to operate according to the rules laid before him by the governments in which he ministers. If he wants to travel to the United States or the United Kingdom, he must have a passport. If he desires to obtain "non-profit" status, he can use the laws that have been created and established by politicians who were voted into office.

We need to understand that there is no occupation of a "politician." A politician is simply a word meant to describe someone who works in the administration and management of the government. He is just another guy who decided to serve in such an office for what he thought -- right or wrong -- would be the betterment of his community, state, or nation. An accumulation of votes is what puts such a person into service. A lack of votes puts the other guy into service. Either way -- by participation or non-participation in the casting of a vote -- one person will win each election. If enough "good" people do nothing, then we can rest assured that something bad might result.

Like I have said before, a vote is simply a voice. It isn't declaring "allegiance" to a candidate, a party or even a social agenda. Rather, it is simply stating (by a little "x" on a piece of paper) just who you think would do a better job in governing. Oddly enough, it is just as much a "voice" as those amongst us who loudly oppose any interaction with such things. A person can vote FOR a particular reason (to lower taxes, end a war, etc...) or AGAINST a particular reason (to STOP abortion, to STOP government recognition and protection of homosexual "marriage," etc...). It might not necessarily be for the reason of embracing the totality of a candidate's beliefs.

Someone once said that those who refuse to vote shouldn't have their right to complain later. They could have used their voice (by voting), yet chose not to. I feel the liberty to vote. I would even feel the liberty to enlist in the military. While some believers might believe that this equates to declaring allegiance to a government, nationality or ideas ABOVE our allegiance to God -- this is not always the case. Sometimes, it is honorable to "choose" between candidates according to which we think is best for our families, our neighbors and our temporary country and citizenship.

I think that it is silly for individuals to go about claiming that any sort of involvement in society is prohibited by Scripture. Jesus paid his taxes -- which were used to fund a godless pagan Empire that ruled the world. Paul used the Roman roads. He used his Roman citizenship (yes, he stated that he was a citizen of Rome) in order to get out of a beating and he "appealed unto Caesar" in order to get the Gospel to Rome and the "house of Caesar." This didn't make Paul any less of a believer, nor did it equate to placing Rome ahead of Christ. In fact, Paul used these things to advance the cause of Christ.



When I vote, I always do so with the glory of Christ in mind. I also consider the needs of my family, fellow believers and neighbors. If I don't want to have my home taken by the government to be turned into a highway, I get involved with the government (by voicing my concern). The government is not perfect -- and it is far from a "holy" thing -- but it is the institution ordained by God. My vote simply reflects my choice between possible alternatives as to what I think is best for this temporary country that we are "passing through."

This situation is far from established. Yet we would do well to state that anything we feel in this matter reflects our own opinions and beliefs. It would be helpful to identify this as such. Yet I have noticed that those who are the loudest in opposition to any such involvement are often the loudest in opposition to decisions by individuals in government (such as the war). Ironically, many do not see the similarity between a voice uttered through a vote and a voice uttered through a complaint. They speak as if those who choose to utter a voice to or in the government are already serving Satan. This is a dangerous statement to make without using those powerful little words, "*It is my opinion/belief...*"

:-)

**Re: Rabbit trails - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/17 18:47**

Quote:

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moe\_mac wrote:

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hmmhmm wrote:

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If you knew your Bible well enough you would that the passage about Jesus and the centurion is in the New Testament and not just be arguing for the sake of argument and hard headedly staying with the theology you were taught while you were growing up. At the least you would make an effort to stay with the passage mentioned and tell me how Jesus rebuked the soldier explain to me where I was missing it. Instead you get off on a rabbit trail because it is the only way you can even remotely appear as though you have a valid case in your argument.  
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Luke 7:1-10

Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Moe,  
The centurion was a soldier who scripture says heard about Jesus in a time of need. Scripture does not say the centurion was a believer before he sent word to Jesus about his sick servant.

He very well may have laid down his arms and not continued as a soldier after he placed his faith in Jesus. Jesus may have instructed him to do so, scripture does not say.

History does lead us to believe, that if he continued his faith in Christ, he would not have continued as a soldier as the idolatrous rites enjoined on the Roman soldiers were totally inconsistent with the Christian character.

Jesus did not say he had great faith because he was a soldier, but because he placed his faith in Jesus and Jesus alone for the healing of his servant.

Oh that we would do the same today.

Moe, your insinuations, insults, and accusations are not becoming of a Christians character, we are to operate in love even when we disagree. This is not a battle, but a discussion of the scriptures among the body of Christ.  
Love ya Mac

In His Love  
pastorfrin

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 20:34**

History does lead us to believe, that if he continued his faith in Christ, he would not have continued as a soldier as the idolatrous rites enjoined on the Roman soldiers were totally inconsistent with the Christian character.

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Pastorfrin,

You are correct in your interpretation that Jesus was referring to the soldier's faith in Jesus' ability to heal but you are assuming the rest about the soldier and his occupation being bad in Jesus eyes. It is not world history truth that I speak of but biblical truth. If being a soldier was a bad thing or an evil thing in the eyes of Jesus, wouldn't this have not been excellent opportunity in the scriptures for Jesus to have rebuked the soldier and let us know that?

As for your accusations against me being out of Christian character in my posts. My struggle is not against flesh and blood but principalities and against powers in wicked places. I have nothing against you, Hmmmmm or anyone else on SI. However I do serve King Jesus and I oppose those powers that enter people and deceive them with a lie, especially when they attempt to pass it on and deceive others, even if it innocently done and I believe in this case and many others it is innocently done. If we are to be Christian soldiers we are to be against those principalities, that means to oppose a lie and anything less than the truth. I have not come against any of you with any weapon other than God's Word. I used the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You are adding to the sword. You have a false weapon. I am not opposing your flesh are anyone else's flesh, just opposing a lie and standing on what I know to be truth. If I did oppose your flesh to do you physical harm as a civilian in anger, I would be out of Christian character. If in my government's military in a fight against people who serve either God's like Allah, I could be right in the center of God's will. It is by the grace of God and His Word, that He gave us that I stand for truth. Somehow the devil has convinced many people and even Christians that we can compromise truth and agree with wrong theology in God's Word, even when they assume things and insert them. His Word that are not there and stand for truth in the same instance and then many have the audacity to call it LOVE. We are to love each other but to love Jesus more. If we love Jesus more, we will stand on truth as we know it and we better make sure we are striving to be accurate. We are to stand on truth even if it offends others and others accuse of us being out of Christian character. That is a lie straight out of hell brother if anyone tells you different. I have no problem with anyone, but I won't stand by and allow people to give every source in the world for truth and quote it as to be truth, refer me

to human with a sermon or another book that doesn't line up with the Bible, when I know that they have the Word of God to allow them to be correct. I pray for the boldness and the grace to prevent my brothers and sisters from being deceived in any manner. I don't know it all brother, as a matter of fact I know very little, and if it's necessary for me to correct you, then you know where that puts you at. Now if I ever get banned on SI for giving truth in boldness, oh well, that's God's will. My prayer is, He will always give me the unction to stand for truth and wherever he allows me to do it. It is as simple as that brother. I have set back and listen to the lie and the spill that Christian duty is not to oppose evil, way too much. I have been and I pray I will continue to be blunt but civil when opposing the lies, just as I have been. In the passage we were discussing, you can't dispute the truth I gave, so assume what fits your spill. But I will oppose a lie wherever location He puts me in, in His strength. I really don't expect me or anyone else will be received in any better manner than the Apostles and Jesus was, as we echo their words. Jesus said it would be that way.

Love ya Brother, just oppose your theology

And oh yes that we would do the same as the centerion today.

**Re: NO KING BUT JESUS, on: 2008/5/17 21:40**

I will not return evil for evil as per Jesus' command.

I will defend my family or another (i.e. senior citizen) from any evildoer if I'm present and able.

I will not enlist nor become a member in any government's military as this is not the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning me.

I am His and I do warfare under no other banner...as His banner over me is love.

Others who are called by the Name of Christ may hold to this or that doctrine regarding this issue but it is enough for me to read the following official document and stand fast upon Jesus' Word:

**C. PARTIAL STATEMENT OF EXISTING UNITED STATES LAWS DD FORM 4/1 (BACK), JAN 2001**

**9. FOR ALL ENLISTEES OR REENLISTEES: Many laws,**

regulations, and military customs will govern my

conduct and require me to do things a civilian does not have to do. The following statements are not promises or guarantees of any kind. They explain some of the present laws affecting the Armed Forces which I cannot change but which Congress can change at any time.

a. My enlistment is more than an employment agreement. As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, I will be:

(1) Required to obey all lawful orders and perform all assigned duties.

...(4) Required upon order to serve in combat or other hazardous situations.

enlistment/reenlistment document.

c. In the event of war, my enlistment in the Armed Forces continues until six (6) months after the war ends, unless my enlistment is ended sooner by the President of the United States.

**E. CONFIRMATION OF ENLISTMENT OR REENLISTMENT**

**15. IN THE ARMED FORCES EXCEPT THE NATIONAL GUARD**

**(ARMY OR AIR):**

I, , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

So help me God.

**16. IN THE NATIONAL GUARD (ARMY OR AIR):**

I, , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations. So help me God.

**19. ENLISTMENT/REENLISTMENT OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

a. The above oath was administered, subscribed, and duly sworn to (or affirmed) before me this date. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

The above form may be found in its entirety at  
www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/da/dd4.doc

This is an authentic government document one is  
required to swear to and sign if contracting with any branch of the military for the U.S Government.

One must take an oath of allegiance to the state and its officers.

The christian is not as those who cried, "We have no King but Caesar", who had Christ the King crucified. Rather, the christian has no King but Jesus. Consider just these few of the many words in Scripture which address this vital issue of swearing and oath-taking :

Leviticus 19:12: "And you shall not swear by My name falsely, neither shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord."

Matthew 5:33-37:

Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord." But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

James 5:12: "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment."

Ecclesiastes 5:2 "Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few."

Matt. 12:36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

The above ought to be enough to at the least cause one to re-think what the will of God is regarding military service.

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 22:27**

Quote:

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wisevirgin wrote:

I will not return evil for evil as per Jesus' command.

I will defend my family or another (i.e. senior citizen) from any evildoer if I'm present and able.

I will not enlist nor become a member in any government's military as this is not the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning me.

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The above ought to be enough to at the least cause one to re-think what the will of God is regarding military service.

Oddly enough a person can skip around in God's Word and copy and paste scriptures to falsely form and fit their theology, as you just did. In replying to my post, just as the others before you, you no attempt to explain why Jesus did not rebuked the soldier about his occupation. Same ole strategy, to get off on a rabbit trail from the subject at hand and the scripture at hand.

**Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/5/17 23:42**

moe\_mac wrote:

Quote:

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Oddly enough a person can skip around in God's Word and copy and paste scriptures to falsely form and fit their theology, as you just did. In replying to my post, just as the others before you, you no attempt to explain why Jesus did not rebuke the soldier about his occupation. Same ole strategy, to get off on a rabbit trail from the subject at hand and the scripture at hand.  
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Brother Moe... What is the issue here?

Regardless if you are right or wrong, your argument/debate on this subject is taking second fiddle to your tone.

I love you man, but check yourself in prayer over this. Not one of these folks are above rebuke, but these are some pretty solid brothers and sisters that your harping on. Is this truly advancing the Kingdom?

:-)

**Re:, on: 2008/5/17 23:48**

hmmhmm wrote:

Quote:

pastorfrin wrote:

Matthew 5:38-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you,

But I say unto you....there we have the change from the old to the new....

The "Ye have heard that it hath been said..." followed by "But I say unto you..." verses found in Matthew are not the change from the old to the new.

In these Jesus is correcting the misinterpreting of God's law by the Pharisees in their Halakha.

Jesus gives the true meaning of His Father's Word as He is the Word incarnate. He is the very Word which spoke on Mount Sinai as well as the Word which spoke to every and through every prophet.

The Father and Son are not of two minds but One.

Also, 1 Cor. 7:20-24 says, "Each one in the calling in which he was called, in this remain.

Were you called as a slave? It does not matter to you. But if you are able to be free, rather use it. For the one called while a slave in the Lord is a freed man of the Lord. And likewise, the one called while a free man is a slave of Christ.

You were redeemed with a price; do not become slaves of men. Each in whatever state called, brothers, in this remain with God.

Christ does not sanction slavery but the one called being a slave is to remain in this state.

Yet we are exhorted not to become slaves of men.

As believers who are free from any enslavement to men, it is incumbent upon us, in honor to our One LORD(Master), not to place ourselves under the power of any.

Re: the centurion... Jesus' encounter with him at this time was not to discuss his occupation, even as it was not the time to discuss abandoning the religious sect of the Pharisees with Nicodemus when he came to Him one night.

"If your religion doesn't change you then change your religion"

**Re:, on: 2008/5/18 0:09**

Quote:

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Miccah wrote:

Brother Moe... What is the issue here?

Regardless if you are right or wrong, your argument/debate on this subject is taking second fiddle to your tone.

I love you man, but check yourself in prayer over this. Not one of these folks are above rebuke, but these are some pretty solid brothers and sisters that are harping on. Is this truly advancing the Kingdom?

:-)  
-----

I'm not harping on anyone Miccah. I am curious as to how you can hear a tone in a post. Are you sure it is not your hearing? I have only asked a fair question here about Jesus not rebuking the soldier and no one has answered it, you included.

Now I realize most people really wishes Jesus had rebuked the soldier and then it would let them have the theology they want. They could just back and pray and not have to do anything else toward righteousness and fighting evil.

Was the centurion passage not an idea opportunity for Jesus to rebuke the soldier and instead of commending him. Yes, I know Jesus was mainly commending him about his faith in HIM but if it was as you say, Jesus missed an opportunity I don't think He would have missed.

Of course you know what we do when we assume he quit that his job and add to His Word. I do check myself in prayer often Miccah.

I'm not angry with anyone, but the devil and his lies to people. By the way you haven't answered the question either and evidently you disagree or you wouldn't be urging me compromise against the truth.

I'm not getting off on no rabbit scriptural trail about an issue. You can go back over, thread after thread, you will see it is a cycle. Someone will give a scripture and make a valid point contained in God's Word. Then as it conflicts with someone else's denominational theology, then they completely ignore the scripture and the question when they make their reply post and go off on a detour rabbit trail or either abandon the thread altogether as they did on the post trib theory thread. The worse thing to do is if you can't explain the point wrong, the last thing you need to is bypass God's Word and refer them to a audio sermon. That guy's sermon might be right and might not. That's deception I think. If you got a theology that want answer questions and you are forced to chase rabbits, go figure.

Love you to brother.

**Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/5/18 0:26**

moe\_mac wrote:

Quote:  
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I'm not angry with anyone, but the devil and his lies to people. By the way you haven't answered the question either and evidently you disagree or you wouldn't be urging me compromise against the truth.

If it needs to be known, I do agree with your views more than I do with the others, but just not in the way that it is being handled by you. I do not know enough about the subject to give a reply for or a refute against, thus I leave it up to others. If you want opinions, that I can give, but who really cares what my opinion is.:-)

Brother, this does need to be said. Disagreeing with you doesn't mean that people have subcombed to lies from the enemy. Believe it or not, the disagreements between the brothers/sisters and you may mean that you are wrong instead of them (me included).

This is not a salvation issue.

Quote:

-----Love you to brother.  
-----

Now there is something that we can agree on. :-)

**Re: Rabbit trails - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/18 0:29**

Moe,  
The one on the rabbit trail would be the one who justifies going to war, taking the lives of those Christ died for and basing it all on a portion of scripture where it is about faith in Jesus Christ to heal.

How would you explain your theology in light of Christ example, or that of His disciples.

1 Peter 2:21-23

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:

There are countless teachings and examples in Christ own words that shoot your one scripture theology out of the water.

Why, if Jesus thought it was necessary for us to be soldiers to be His Disciples did He not teach us to do so?

Your theology teaches that Jesus should rebuke all who have died for His sake because they were caring a Bible instead of a carnal weapon.

There is recorded but one instance where a disciple of Christ used a carnal weapon and he was immediately rebuked by Jesus:

Matthew 26:52

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.

We are taught

2 Cor. 10:4

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephes. 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Pr



aying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Galatians 5:22-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

The only sword we are commanded to use is the Sword of the Spirit, and that my dear brother is the one we should stick to.

Jesus said: Matthew 26:53

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

He does not need our measly carnal weapons or us using them, what He needs is for us to obey His commands:

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

I think it is well past time for us to depend on His Power and Preach the WORD.

In His Love  
pastorfrin

1 Cor. 3:16-17

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

**Re: Nonresistant and Nonpolitical by J. C. Wenger - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/18 0:36**

I have read this passage and the surrounding passages just now and meditated upon them, this is what I think happened in LUK 7:1-10

we see in the first verse

Luk 7:1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

Jesus had just been preaching, it is very possible the centurion had heard Jesus and was "pricked" in his heart and now seeking him for faith and healing.

It is true Jesus don't rebuke him, or say he must stop being a soldier. There are other such scriptures also in the NT. Several ones. I have read the other side to call it that, their argument and scripture. They are there. I have not come to some final and last stand on all things. But there are other scripture more that you seem to ignore or make not valid if wearing a uniform.

what I think one of the things this passage can teach us is this

Luk 7:7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

Luk 7:8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to

o another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Luk 7:9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Luk 7:10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Isent it amazing that a heathen soldier has more faith in Jesus then his own people? it is the same today, many christian s dont believe gods word or all of it anyway. Or make it of non effect by their fathers traditions.

So i think even as Jesus dont forbid this man to be a soldier, he dont encourage him either.

He does use him as a rebuke to his people. and an example to us to learn from

And probably the centurion saught Jesus becuse he had just heard his preaching from

Luk 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Luk 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Luk 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Luk 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

Luk 6:30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

Luk 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Luk 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

Luk 6:33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

Luk 6:34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

Luk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Luk 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Luk 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Luk 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall all men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luk 6:39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Luk 6:40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

Luk 6:41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Luk 6:42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Luk 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Luk 6:44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

Luk 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Luk 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

Luk 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Luk 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

and these teachings are very hard to live by in a war, so one must conclude the soldier probably was "pricked" in his heart and seeking the Lord for salvation and healing. Jesus also healed in that previous chapter, and maybe the centurion saw that and had faith....

so great faith he shamed a entire nation of gods people.

I am also interested in hearing your views on the "rabbit trail" of scriptures brother moe.

Gods peace and grace brother

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/5/18 0:46**

i think Dean taylor does a good and are very faithful in interpreting scripture in this sermon.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid15168&commentViewItemComments>) Theology of martyrdom

For those that are unfamiliar with this view, one shouldnt be since they are just same as what Jesus taught, but we have so many that have been taught otherwise , and even if one holds the opposite view, and thinks and are convinced a christian can be in a war and fight. Wont hurt you to listen to the other sides arguments....

They may be very good. And he also gives a good testimony since he once was a soldier in Americas army.... Dean Taylor was one of the speakers at Revival conference, be blessed brothers and sisters in the Lord

**Re:, on: 2008/5/18 1:39**

Quote:

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pastorfrin wrote:

Moe,

The one on the rabbit trail would be the one who justifies going to war, taking the lives of those Christ died for and basing it all on a portion of scripture where it is about faith in Jesus Christ to heal.

-----  
Pastorfrin, Hmmmmm and everyone.

I will try explain further what I believe the scriptures say. I will not go into a great deal about that because I have more important things to say.

We know Joshua, Gideon, and many other great men of God fought other evil men that worshipped other God's and the Army that worship the God of Abraham Issiac and Jabob always won the battle as long as they were in good standing with the Father who sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus is our example. One main difference in us being the example as Jesus was is we can't be anyone's Savior, we can point them toward the Savior. As His church, we are to be a body, the wife to the bridesgroom. Each body part of that body functions at least it's suppose to in an effort to point people to Jesus, who was only perfect sacrifice for sins. Jesus said he came not to condemn the world but to save it.

Now we know from scripture that it appears Moses, and the prophets are in heaven. Peter James and John saw Moses and Elijah with Jesus They went to war with God's enemies, the ones who worshipped other God's. They are in heaven in good graces with Jesus and the Father.

Having said that, and the fact Jesus said there will be wars and rumors of wars. Seeing that Jesus did not rebuke the centurion. Having a pretty good idea that Jesus loves us and not only wants to give us eternal life but loves us enough to see our children safe from captivity of evil people and know Jesus loves us and wants to see His children enjoy His creation and wants to see us love each other during our vapor life here on earth and then be with him in heaven.

It don't take a rocket scientist to figure out where the world would be if we had not had WW1 AND WW2. We would be in

captivity of the communist. Now all these consencious objectors and I realized you served, but I'm talking about the ones that haven't and the people who don't think we need a military. My advice to them is move to Iran, North Korea or some of those communist nations who served other God's and then they will be ready to come back to America and thank God for His grace and mercy now and for eternity. God has been bountiful to me. I have served 3 years in Vietnam. He bought me through that and he has blessed me with more comfort and love from family than I ever imagine or deserve, especially for the way I have served Him in my younger years. Not only that, but He has given me eternal life and man I don't know how people handle it when they come to the place where they know their life will end and they can't be totally confident of Him and eternity.

There are many things we don't know about God, but one thing we do know, He loves us so very much. He is a just God and He true to His Word and He will eternally punish all who does not put their trust in Jesus and in paying our sin debt in full on the cross and then rising again to live so we can too.

I have been for the past 3 years on oxygen 24/7 to breath. Housebound about 95% of the time. I struggled for about a year before I got set up on oxygen to breath. It's pretty expensive. I have been at the point of death and meeting Jesus several times over the past 3 years. I have had plenty of times to cry out to Him for mercy and grace. Actually right now, I am quiet comfortable, breathing good with my oxygen on, sitting in my new Lazyboy recliner my wife bought for me not long ago, typing on my new \$120.00 Pent 4 Gateway laptop computer laptop, ask me about that price sometime and how I got it that cheap, with the room temperate just right. I could go on and on, God has been so good to me. I am so thankful to Him and for His presence. All that and eternal life. Wow. That is the hope that we have.

Whether I differ with you over war being justified or not is not really that important. Loving Him and being thankful for all He is and all He had done is.

God Bless all of you.  
moe\_mac

**Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/5/18 12:59**

Hi pastorfrin...

Quote:  
-----Moe,  
The one on the rabbit trail would be the one who justifies going to war, taking the lives of those Christ died for and basing it all on a portion of scripture where it is about faith in Jesus Christ to heal.  
-----

Actually, someone could say the same thing about anyone else's views (including your own). I do not think that it is wise to say such things (about those who we think are off on "rabbit trails") unless there is NO DOUBT about our beliefs.

The point is that we often dismiss the views of others when we THINK that we know which way is "perfect" and that we have arrived to such "perfection" in a particular area of our doctrine. The views of the "non-involvement" crowd (from slight to supposedly complete in nature) is duly noted. However, there are those amongst us that do not embrace such a belief in complete and utter non-involvement. Thus, we need to be careful about acting as if our own set of beliefs in such matters are the only ones that matter or that they are the only ones embraced by Jesus -- if we even have the slightest hesitation about such a matter.

I believe that I can vote. I believe that I can affect or influence the legislators and legislation of this nation. I do this -- not because I think that it is the most "spiritual" thing to do or a specific calling in Christ -- but because it is a means by which I can influence the outcome of the decisions of men and women who wish to influence this nation's direction anyway. There are certain choices that are not directly spelled out in Scripture. The Word of God says nothing about what type of car I should drive (at least, not directly). It doesn't speak directly about computers (because they did not exist at the time). Likewise, it speaks very little about a government like the one in the United States ("*...of the people, for the people and by the people...*") because such governments did not exist in the first century. Yet I believe in providing for my family as best as I can...and this is spoken of in the Scriptures.

If a pornographic billboard advertising any sort of smut were to be created in my backyard -- in full view of my family -- I would do everything that I could to have it removed. If someone tried to break into my house, and the doors were locked, I would CALL THE AUTHORITIES while praying the entire time. If the state attempted to take my house via "imminent domain" in order to build a new highway -- I would try to do something about it (either seek proper compensation or contact my legislators). If members of my state legislature were to introduce a bill that would allow for "secret abortions" on behalf of 10 and 11 year old girls without parental consent -- I would raise my voice to both the public and those legislators. If my children were to be taken away by a state agency that claimed that I "brainwashed" them with Christianity -- I would fight such thing through the legislature. If I were arrested for preaching the Gospel on a public street -- I would fight it in the nation's legal system (appealing unto Washington if I had to). If the state introduced a new tax that targeted only Christians (as is common in Islamic nations) and used such a law to take all of our property, I would do what I could to voice my concern in and to the government. If the state tried to say that I no longer have the right to educate my own children and that I must admit them into one of these battlegrounds of the mind known as "public schools" (where, I might add, my wife works), I would do what I can to stop such a thing from becoming law. And, of course, at the same time I would PRAY and FAST.

Do you see how some of us think that we can be involved in government or in what some would call "politics?" Yes, there are limits to such involvement. Some of us who feel the liberty to vote might not feel the liberty to serve in the military. Some of us who feel the liberty to serve in the military might not feel the liberty to serve in the infantry. But is it wise to dismiss all such government involvement with blanket statement of complete separation? We are not of this world but we are IN this world. Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Paul -- they all either used the "secular" (or even pagan) governmental structure to advance the cause of our Lord.

We all know the old anecdote about a flood and a man refusing to accept rescue via a lifejacket, a boat and a helicopter because the man was "waiting on God for rescue" (and how he stood before God after dying and God asks him why the man didn't accept the lifejacket, boat or helicopter that he sent). Likewise, a government that is made up of our fellow neighbors can be influenced by our faith. God can even use the legal and legislative process to bring about good (such as opening the door to the Gospel in closed nations, as Brother Richard Wurmbrand used to attest).

We should be careful -- and prayerful -- about the words that we share. Yes, we certainly enjoy the liberty to share what we believe. But we shouldn't pass off our beliefs as if they are the only perspective that matters. I know that Brother Moore is quick to voice his perspective or thoughts on such issues, but it often seems that this is because others are so quick to advance their own as well. I simply suggest that we use patience and grace -- and do not pass off someone else's belief in voting (or other forms of involvement) as a "sinful" thing that will send them to Hell (which is how I have felt that I was treated at times). I know that this is not the message that most of us try to express, but this is how it often appears.

This election season, I will probably vote. I will almost certainly use my voice (my vote) on propositions that I feel are important. However, I might even vote for a candidate who I feel is the better of two choices in the direction of this country. There are issues that matter to me: Abortion, homosexual activism, commercial pornography passed as artistic "free speech," public religious freedom, personal security, etc... -- all of these things matter to me. I know that all things are in the hands of God and that I will be kept there regardless of the events of the future. And I know that the world is headed to a certain doom. However, I will still do what I can to prevent my family and my neighborhood from spiraling down to utter destruction.

In I Samuel chapter 17, God could have easily destroyed the Philistine with lightning or by opening the ground up and devouring Goliath. Yet the Lord chose to use certain instruments (a smooth stone and a sling) in the hands of one of His children to accomplish this. Likewise, I believe that God can use the things of this world to bring about a victory. He can use government legislature to outlaw abortion -- just as Satan often uses a government legislature to protect his interests. This is the extent of my views of government and even the military. It might not be 100% infallible and some might even scoff at such a notion, but this is what I currently feel as a child of God. This thought isn't taken lightly -- but is arrived to after much prayer, study, more prayer, contemplation and more prayer. I am certain that we all do the same.

**Re: Brothers - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/18 14:49**

Quote:

moe\_mac wrote:

There are many things we don't know about God, but one thing we do know, He loves us so very much. He is a just God and He true to His Word and He will eternally punish all who does not put their trust in Jesus and in paying our sin debt in full on the cross and then rising again to live so we can too.

I have been for the past 3 years on oxygen 24/7 to breath. Housebound about 95% of the time. I struggled for about a year before I got set up on oxygen to breath. It's pretty expensive. I have been at the point of death and meeting Jesus several times over the past 3 years. I have had plenty of times to cry out to Him for mercy and grace. Actually right now, I am quiet comfortable, breathing good with my oxygen on, sitting in my new Lazyboy recliner my wife bought for me not long ago, typing on my new \$120.00 Pent 4 Gateway laptop computer laptop, ask me about that price sometime and how I got it that cheap, with the room temperature just right. I could go on and on, God has been so good to me. I am so thankful to Him and for His presence. All that and eternal life. Wow. That is the hope that we have.

Whether I differ with you over war being justified or not is not really that important. Loving Him and being thankful for all He is and all He had done is.

God Bless all of you.  
moe\_mac

Brother Moe,

It is so true, our differences are nothing compared to us loving Him and being thankful for His wondrous mercy and His amazing grace.

We are not that different brother, as you may know; I lost part of my knee joint while in country along with the scares in body, there are the ones in mind and spirit. His grace has been faithful in healing these.

I'm also in a battle, as kidney cancer is taking its toll. I just found out that it has now metastasized to my left hip. So now I have a bad right knee and a bum left hip.

By His grace I still work at the VA and minister in the church, but unless I receive healing soon all this will end and I will soon finish the race.

Moe, we were once brothers in arms, but now we are brothers in Christ. One day we will meet Him face to face and we will be like Him, no differences then only blood bought brothers in and with Jesus Christ.

May God's blessings rest upon you and yours, until that glorious day.

In His Love  
pastorfrin

**Re: - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/18 14:55**

Chris wrote:

Quote:  
-----Actually, someone could say the same thing about anyone else's views (including your own). I do not think that it is wise to say such things (about those who we think are off on "rabbit trails") unless there is NO DOUBT about our beliefs.  
-----

Chris,

You may want to read the whole thread before you start with your accusations, if you have then it is evident you belong to one of those "crowds" you are talking about.

I have not been talking to you or about politics. I have been talking to a brother in arms and in Christ and we are well able to work out our differences.

I thank you for your concern, and trust the Lord will lead you in the Truth.

Blessings

In His Love  
pastorfrin

**Re:, on: 2008/5/18 15:28**

Quote:

-----  
pastorfrin wrote:

Chris wrote:

Quote:  
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Blessings  
In His Love  
pastorfrin  
  
-----

We should not be worried about our differences Pastorfrin, but being in tune with HIS WORD and standing for His righteousness. Actually Chris wrote the same thing I would have written if I had his education, I guess I could translate his post to the redneck version of it, but you have already heard that. SO I just say Amen  
Blessings brother. Don't worry about lining up with me and Chris, just worry about lining up with the Word.

**Re: worried? no - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/18 16:11**

Moe wrote:

Quote:  
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-----

Worried? no, confident in Him yes.

2 Tim. 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

And to this I say AMEN!

Re:, on: 2008/5/18 16:40

Quote:  
-----  
pastorfrin wrote:  
Moe wrote:  
  
Quote:  
-----We should not be worried about our differences Pastorfrin, but being in tune with HIS WORD and standing for His righteousness. Actually Chris wrote the same thing I would have written if I had his education, I guess I could translate his post to the redneck version of it, but you have already heard that. SO I just say Amen  
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And to this I say AMEN!

-----  
  
I can Amen that too brother and I know Chris can too.  
God Bless Pastorfrin.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss ( ), on: 2008/5/18 18:13

Hello pastorfrin...  
Quote:  
-----You may want to read the whole thread before you start with your accusations, if you have then it is evident you belong to one of those "crowds" you are talking about.  
-----

Brother, I have followed this entire thread. In addition, you might be the one who also needs to read my post(s) again. There were no "accusations" toward you. You often accuse me of laying accusations, but I think that these are merely disagreements in beliefs.

Quote:  
-----I have not been talking to you or about politics. I have been talking to a brother in arms and in Christ and we are well able to work out our differences.  
-----

Believe it or not, dear brother, your posts appear to be exceedingly *political* (although in a manner that decries certain involvements or participations in various matters). Many times in which a brother speaks about his beliefs concerning voting, physical "defense" (both of family, neighbors or nation), etc... -- you seem to feel the need to participate in the discussion. Please afford me the grace to participate as well.

Quote:  
-----I thank you for your concern, and trust the Lord will lead you in the Truth.  
-----

Likewise, I pray that we are BOTH led in the Truth. However, we need to both be teachable enough to realize that we are not sitting on a throne of infallibility regarding our doctrinal views. We are, after all, not yet made perfect in all things.



I apologize for any offense that it may cause you when I ask questions or participate in this discussion. But I suppose that you did the same with Moe in his conversations. I do not apologize for the thoughts behind my words, for I know that they are pure. I do apologize (in true humility) if they do cause offense, for that was not my intention. And, of course, I thought that it was indeed evident that I was not laying any sort of "accusation" at you.

God is certainly able to lead us and guide us to all truth as we seek it with a pure heart. I do and have read your many, many "Christian Non-resistance" posts with an open heart. Please afford any of us with whom you disagree the same grace. I love you, dear brother, and I mean this with my heart.

**Re: - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2008/5/18 20:19**

Thank you brother Chris for 'your' wisdom.

Isaiah 42:18-19

Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant?

and your uplifting words, I will continue to place my confidence in Him.

2 Tim. 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

May His Truth guide and be the hope of us all.

In His Love  
pastorfrin

**Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/5/19 11:04**

Thank you, pastorfrin. I suppose that is the prayer of every believer. May we all continue to place our trust, hopes and confidence in Him. Our ultimate goal lay in the hope that we may one day see His face in all of His glory and perfection.

**Proverbs 14:34**

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

**Acts 10:1-2**

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway."

**Romans 13:1-4**

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

**1 Peter 2:17**

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

**Matthew 5:8**

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.”

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2008/5/19 13:07

Quote:

----- we were once brothers in arms, but now we are brothers in Christ.  
-----