

MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MARCH 05, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



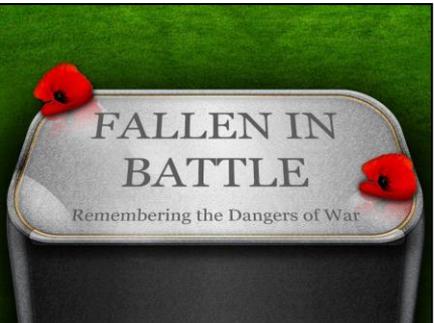
EPHESIANS 6:10-20

"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM

11AM



"NO SOLDIER GETS ENTANGLED IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS, SINCE HIS AIM IS TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO ENLISTED HIM" (2 TIMOTHY 2:4).

RELIGION AND WAR

BY DOY MOYER

“If religion is so great, why are religions responsible for so much war?”

A question like this is really more like a statement: since religions are responsible for so much war, then religion cannot be so great after all. Since this is one of the types of objections that is commonly used against Christianity, then what are some ideas to help the Christian respond?

First, this type of statement assumes that all religions are essentially the same. They aren't. Some religions do teach to fight against unbelievers. Some religions actively teach peace. Biblical Christianity is one of the latter.

Second, this assumes that everyone claiming a religion is practicing it carefully and accurately. They aren't. It is this same mentality that assumes that Christianity was responsible for the Crusades. It is true that those who claimed to be Christians were responsible for much bloodshed, but this does not mean they were really Christians or that they were really following Christ's mandates. No one can read the New Testament, see the teachings of Jesus, and believe that true Christianity will ever be responsible for such wars.

Third, the statement is a case of special pleading (ignoring other evidence). Are we to ignore all the bloodshed caused by communistic, atheistic regimes? Shall we ignore that Hitler was a proponent of Darwinism? Are we to ignore the great number of atheists (and others) who also actively promote killing the innocent in the womb of a mother? It is not just religious people who start wars and shed innocent blood. People from all worldview spectrums have done it. If religion is bad, so is every worldview that has blood on it, including atheism.

The fact is that people will fight over what they are passionate about, whether considered religious or not. They will fight over their

worldviews, and everyone has a worldview. It's not about religion in and of itself. It's about passion. It's about power. It will always be about some form of selfishness. It doesn't matter what label, religious or not, that proponents put on their reasons.

This brings us back to the teachings of Christ. Those who are truly passionate about the teachings of Jesus will do everything they can to live out those teachings. Those teachings are adamantly against hurting or killing people for the sake of Christ. We are to pray for our enemies. We are to teach our enemies. We are to be good neighbors. We are, as much as it depends upon us, to be at peace with all men. No one who promotes war for the sake of Jesus is representing Christ. Just read His teachings and see.

Wars do exist for other reasons. Sometimes they exist to promote freedom. Sometimes they exist to bring judgment upon wicked nations, as is the case in Old Testament battles commanded by God. This is a difficult issue, to be sure. But if we bear in mind that God, has the power of life and death to begin with (Deut 32:39), and carries the authority to execute true and final justice in its most perfect sense, then we can at least have a framework for understanding the Old Testament issue better. However, there can be no doubt, biblically, that Christ ushered in a change in how nations are to be seen. Christians, who are the special nation of God, are not bound by the lines of national boundaries, for they exist in all nations. There is no New Testament mandate to destroy the nations physically. It's just the opposite. The nations are crushed, not by Christians bearing physical swords, but by the spread of the gospel of God's kingdom. Christians are to promote peace and tranquility, both physically and spiritually. They are to promote Christ and His salvation.

Are religions responsible for war? Some are, but true Christianity will never be responsible for it.

VISITORS:

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word. If there is anything we can do to help you spiritually, please let us know. We are here to serve!

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @
preacher@madridchurch.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 03/19-03/22 - Gospel Meeting w/ Mike Richardson (Resisting the Attractions of the World)
- 03/19 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's
- 04/02 – Song Service

If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!

DAILY READING:

- 03/06 – Josh 1-4; Psalm 66
- 03/07 – Joshua 5-8; Psalm 67
- 03/08 – Joshua 9-12; Psalm 68
- 03/09 – Josh 13-21 (skim);
Psalm 69
- 03/10 – Joshua 22-24; Psalm 70
- 03/11 – Judges 1-4; Psalm 71
- 03/12 – Judges 5-8; Psalm 72



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

-Psalm 119:105