

GLEANINGS — December 13, A.D. 2015
Speeders and Other Scofflaws

As a result of the recent San Bernardino, California mass shooting and other tragic events this year, there is much discussion and debate going on in our society about firearms and whether or not they should be regulated and how. In other words, so-called GUN CONTROL is a hot topic of the day.

How should we think about this issue as Bible believing Christians?

First, we know that God created a very good world which did not include death, misery, and sorrow of any kind. There were no guns or shooters in the garden of Eden. Human sin is the reason we have death, misery, and sorrow. Sin is the ultimate cause of the existence of war, violence, or any weapon. And we know that God's plan to save the world through the Lord Jesus Christ will bring about the final and eternal overthrow of those all these things.

In the meantime, God has given us directives for handling sin when it occurs. He ordains punishment for various sinful deeds that never should have been committed in the first place. Another example is divorce. God hates it (Malachi 2:16) and normally marriage should be for life. Yet in this fallen world and in certain circumstances, divorce is permissible.

Similarly, the use of weapons to defend oneself or one's neighbor is just and permissible, even though in a sinless world there would be no need for weapons at all!

Abraham armed his household and forcefully rescued Lot (Genesis 14), and Scripture does not condemn him for it. Just before His arrest, the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "...he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and **he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.**" (Luke 22:36)

The next time you see a 55 MPH speed limit sign, and you notice that everybody (*perhaps including you!*) is zooming along at 65 MPH or more, think about the idea of gun control laws. If people were by nature righteous law-keepers, we would obey God's commandments and the rules established by God ordained authorities which do not violate God's commandments. In other words, not one motorist would exceed the speed limit.

That's obviously not the way we are by nature! We are disobedient sinners...disobedient to God, to parents, and to other lawful human authority God has placed over us. So what will gun control laws or signs that read "Gun Free Zone" accomplish in terms of stopping violent acts committed with firearms? They will be as effective as speed limit law and signs are in controlling traffic!

Neither the United States Constitution, nor its Second Amendment which affirms that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" has the authority of Scripture. However, that document, the law of our land, reflects the life preserving requirement of the Sixth Commandment, which requirement the Lord Jesus upheld with His words recorded by Luke.

Guns are only inanimate objects. What must be restrained and dealt with in this fallen world are the sinful human hearts which can use inanimate objects for good or for evil.

Consider this hypothetical situation: a terrorist is about to begin a shooting spree, and the difference between life and death is a matter of SECONDS for many people. Meanwhile, the "professionally armed," that is the police, are several MINUTES away.

Should we have laws that would restrict an armed citizen, present at our hypothetical place of wicked violence, from acting decisively to preserve his own life and the lives of his neighbors? Would those laws be obeyed by any deranged terrorist, determined to kill many innocent people?