

## Central Church of Christ

Meeting Location:  
NABOR Conference Center  
1455 Pine Ridge Road  
Naples, FL 34109

~ *Contact* ~  
239-961-3390  
centralcocnaples.com

~ *Services* ~

### **Sunday Morning:**

Bible Study – 10:00 AM      Worship – 11:00 AM

### **Sunday Evening:**

Worship – 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday Night:**

Bible Study – 7:00 PM

John Rose – Preacher  
239-227-6925

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Editor – *WORDS OF FAITH*

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Gospel – Rom. 10:17      Believe the Gospel – John 8:24  
Repent of your sins – Luke 13:3      Confess your faith – Acts 8:37  
Be baptized for forgiveness of past sins – Acts 2:38  
Live faithfully unto death – Rev. 2:10, 1 John 1:7

## Scriptural Worship

Preaching the Word of God – Acts 2:42  
Giving of Your Means – 1 Cor. 16:1-2  
Observing the Lord's Supper – Acts 20:7  
A Cappella Singing – Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16  
Praying – Acts 2:42

Let us all worship “in spirit and in truth,” (John 4:24).

## WORDS OF FAITH

“... nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine ...”  
1 Tim. 4:6

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[The following material begins with a Globe-News article by Cletus Stein of Amarillo, TX. After the Stein article, Terry Hightower, Gospel preacher in Amarillo, responds with the Biblical answer.]

### **To Which Kingdom Do We Belong?**

Recently, several people wrote that we should exterminate terrorists. This is certainly anti-Christian.

Which one of us is without sin? Which of us doesn't understand that America terrorizes many people?

The French terrorists, which we don't call Muslim, since we never call Christian terrorists (like Timothy McVeigh, etc.) Christian, killed 12.

We kill more than that each day with our drones and bombs, etc. Let us get consistent. If we hate terrorism, then we should not be terrorizing others. Armies terrorize much more than individuals or militant groups. Just ask those in our war zones. We can't terrorize Iraqis and Afghans and be called “good guys.”

We can't want to exterminate others and be a follower of Jesus, who told us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. Sorry, but that's the hard truth.

We are all God's children. Jesus taught us how to live and to be ready to die rather than kill another. The choice isn't between killing or being killed. There is a third way – touching another's conscience by our loving strength.

Don't we have the creativity and courage for that from the Spirit? Why are we not living like that? Do we belong to the kingdom of this world or the Kingdom of God?

– Cletus Stein, Amarillo

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### I Belong To Two Kingdoms Like Paul

Cletus Stein ["To which kingdom do we belong?" (Globe-News, Jan. 15)] needs to study the Bible in context to realize that "the sum of thy word is truth" (Psa. 119:160) as Jesus Himself understood (Mat. 4:7). Stein takes verses out of their "insult and not injury" non-warfare context (Mat. 5:39). On a battlefield one will not have to worry about "turning the other cheek" (Mat. 5:39) to enemies as ISIS has so plainly demonstrated in their recent beheadings! No amount of Stein's misguided "touching another's conscience by our loving strength" will stop these ungodly fanatics.

One doesn't have to go very far in the New Testament (that Christ pre-approved) to see such verses as Rom. 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17) authorizing carnal weapons in punishing and even killing evildoers like our present day terrorists. Instead of being "anti-Christian" this action in full accord with scriptural teachings because some sins are "worthy of death" (Acts 25:11; 2 Pet. 2:12). No, none of us is without sin, but, in fact, when civil authorities fail to protect the lives of their citizens, they are sinning by failing in their God-ordained duty!

As a Christian, the apostle Paul recognized his dual citizenship in Christ's and Caesar's kingdoms ([Col. 1:13]; Acts 22:29) and he even used the latter in Acts 23:12-35 to thwart the Jewish plot of over 40 men who planned to murder him. The 200 Roman soldiers involved in protecting an obviously non-pacifist Paul carried spears and swords (Rom. 13:4) not butter paddles!

Our friend Stein seems to equate any physical force by those who would properly punish evildoers as being the same thing as physical force used by Islamic terrorists and this is as foolish as those who believe that "all killing is murder." (All murder is killing but not all killing is murder!). Christ's wonderful forerunner (John the Baptist) said "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" which included divine instruction for Roman soldiers seeking his baptism to "be content with your wages" (Luke 3:14), hardly a ringing endorsement of Mr. Stein's squeamishness.

While our Lord did not advocate that His church/kingdom usurp the role of civil government [Mat. 22:21, Editor] or violence

to spread His kingdom (as do radical Islamists), He did authorize the sword for personal protection (Luke 22:35-38) and for one to even protect his private property (Mat. 24:43). One even sees a non-nambypamby NT Jesus twice overthrowing the money-changers tables and running out both animals and men! I am unaware that Tim McVeigh was acting like a "Christian," but regardless of his religious background, he ought to have been stopped initially from his evil action and he certainly deserved the capital punishment he finally received. We must realize that there is a "terror" of the righteous sort coming from Deity Himself (2 Cor. 5:11; 2 The. 1:7-9) by means of the Spirit-given Bible.

– Terry Hightower, Amarillo, TX.

Slight adaptation by the editor for format and two added Scripture references.

### Bible Trivia

1. What was the first place Abraham sojourned in the land of Canaan after leaving Haran?  
**Answer:** The first place recorded by the Bible is Sichem or Shechem (Gen. 12:6).
2. Where did Abraham bury Sarah?  
**Answer:** Sarah was buried in a cave purchased by Abraham near Hebron (Gen. 23:19).
3. To whom did Joseph's brothers sell him?  
**Answer:** Joseph was sold to Midianite merchants (Gen. 37:28).
4. What were the names of Joseph's two sons?  
**Answer:** Joseph's firstborn son was Manasseh (Gen. 41:51). His second son was Ephraim (Gen. 41:52).