

## Discussion Guide: War...What's it Good For?

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)*

**March 9, 2003:** "War...What's it Good For" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. As we begin the 19th year today of College Park Church, Pastor Kimber departed from his series on "Our Adversary the Devil" to deal with our nation being on the brink of war in the middle east. He passionately shared his insight from his study of the scriptures how God uses war to deal with evil in the world and strongly feels that our nation must rise to the challenge and fulfill its responsibility as God's instrument of justice to rid the world of the evil that is before us. For example,

Throughout the Old Testament, God took out leaders who did not obey his commands and did not do what was right in his sight (i.e., Saul in 1 Samuel), and the means for doing this was often through acts of war by the people he called into battle.

In preparation for such battles, God trains those who will be on the front line. Psalms 18:34 and 133:1-2.

Being a soldier is a common role in society. For example, in response to the warnings of John the Baptist to the crowds that followed him in Luke 3:7-14, he accepted the legitimate role of soldiers in responding to their question, along with the others in the crowd, "What should we do" and gave them specific advice that was pertinent to the culture of that day.

In Romans 12:14-21 God, through the Apostle Paul, tells us how we are to behave as individuals towards our fellow man. With regard to evil that is done to us, we are to overcome evil with good and leave room for God's wrath in dealing with the enemy.

In Romans 13:1-7 God reveals, through the Apostle Paul, that he establishes governing authorities as his instrument in dealing with the enemy. And God has raised up and richly blessed our nation to be such an authority, and with that blessing comes our responsibility to act decisively. Pray mightily for our President, the leadership of our nation and the brave men and women of the armed forces of our nation that God will give them wisdom, strength and courage to follow His direction in the days ahead and successfully carry out the missions that He places before them.

Pastor also challenged us to look upon the parable of the Good Samaritan from an International perspective and asked the question, "What is the loving thing to do when you see the results of evil in the world?"

### Discussion Question:

What is the loving thing to do...for example...

- When our children do evil things?
- When people do evil things to us individually, us as a society, us as a nation?
- When evil rulers rise up and threaten the peace and stability of the entire world?