

The sins he lists are “profaneness of language, in taking the tremendous name of God in vain,” drinking and excess. His point is that if the we don’t forsake sin, God may forsake us.

The complete sermon can be accessed at  
[www.bcgv.org/\\_images/DavidJonesSermon.pdf](http://www.bcgv.org/_images/DavidJonesSermon.pdf)

or

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/59183925/Theology-of-Christian-Resistance#page=247>

## ***Family News***

The February potluck will be on the second Sunday of the month: February 10, 2013.

The target date for finalization of the adoption of the Shorts’ foster daughter is February 11.

### ***Prayer List:***

***Healing:*** Rick Nichols (friend of the Shorts), Tatyana’s daughter Olga, Jerry Robinson’s daughter Christie, Mike Cavasos, Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas Self, Annie Self, Douglas Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark’s grandson), Inez’ son Lee, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

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<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

**27 January 2013**

## **Sermon Topics**

**A.M.: Approved Worship**

Acts 2:36-47

**P.M.: Woes and Judgments**

Isaiah 5:8-30

Evangelist

*Ken Knowlton: 428-5974*

Elders

*Ben Atchley: 428-2246*

*Greg Briggs: 428-8756*

*John Cunningham: 428-0895*

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

## **Were the Christian American Revolutionaries in Violation of Romans 13?**

Many believe the Christians who took up arms against the British in the Revolutionary War were in violation of Romans 13. In fact, many Colonists in the 1770s refused to take up arms, citing Romans 13. They argued that Christians were forbidden to take up arms against their own government.

It is a fascinating activity to try to understand how people thinking in those days. Although we can eavesdrop on their arguments, we still will be drawing our own conclusions. However, it is obvious the revolutionaries thought far longer and harder than we would; for currently we are not faced with making the the hard decision they were making.

I'm going to review a sermon that was preached on July 20, 1775 at Tredyffryn, in Chester County, Philadelphia. It was preached on the day of the continental fast. (Yes, the Founding Fathers, who signed the Declaration of Independence, declared a Continental Day of Fast)! The preacher was a man named "Reverend David Jones."

The title of the sermon is *Defensive War in a Just Cause Sinless*. The Text for the lesson is Nehemiah 4:14.

And I looked and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.

Jones explained the context of the verse. The people who had returned from Babylonian captivity were in the process of rebuilding the Jerusalem wall; but the peoples' neighbors tried to frustrate the work and threatened force to prevent the building of the wall.

He then gave an outline of the rest of his lesson:

I. An endeavor shall be made to prove, that in some cases, when a people are oppressed, insulted and abused, and can have no other redress, it then becomes our duty as men, with our eyes to God, to fight for our liberties and properties; or in other words, that a defensive war is sinless before God, consequently to engage therein, is consistent with the purest religion. Here some texts in the New Testament, which prevent some good men from engaging in the present dispute, shall be considered.

II. Some particulars shall be presented to our consideration, to demonstrate the alarming call, which

we now have to take up arms in our own defense.

III. A few arguments shall be advanced to excite fortitude in martial engagements.

Jones then details several other *defensive* wars from the Old Testament, in particular, when people rose up against unrighteous rulers. He shows that the current dispute the Colonists have with their king is no different.

Next, Jones explains the proper application of Romans 13. He argues that Romans 13 applies when the rulers rule in compliance with God's will.

The higher powers, of which Paul speaks, are ordained of God, and if ordained of him, they must be like unto him, who is a God of unspotted justice and truth. Certain it is, that the people must be the judges whether the laws are good or not; - and I think it must be acknowledged by all, that laws are not good, except they secure every man's liberty and property, and defend the subject against the arbitrary power of kings, or any body o men whatsoever.

Jones makes a similar argument that 1 Peter 2:13-14 does not apply unrighteous rulers. He then makes a fascinating point that England's efforts to establish a state religion in the Colonies was just as much an act of tyranny as the estate confiscations and oppressions being suffered throughout the Colonies. He argues that defensive wars are no different than prosecution of criminals.

Jones opened his sermon by reading Nehemiah 4:14. He then said by way of introduction, "When a people become voluntary slaves to sin; when it is esteemed a reproach to reverence and serve God; when profaneness and dissolute morals become fashionable; when pride and luxury predominate, we cannot expect such a nation to be long happy." He ended his sermon with an invitation.

"Unfeignedly to confess and deplore our many sins," is recommended by our Congress as one duty of this day. And alas! We have many great sins abounding in our land....