



Letters to the Editor

Thou Shalt Not?

As a veteran, I hold Desmond Doss, the WWII conscientious objector who refused to use a weapon of any type because of his Christian religious belief against killing, in the highest regard for earning the Medal of Honor (“Desmond Doss: His Only Weapon Was His Conscience,” November 7 issue). This comment about him does not detract from his heroism in any way. But his religious reason for conscientious objection was unjustified.

Some opponents of capital punishment cite the Sixth Commandment as the basis for their objection. Doss was one. As translated in the King James Version of the Bible, the Sixth Commandment reads, “Thou shalt not kill.” However, that is an inaccurate translation that has misled people to conclude that the commandment prohibits all killing. Biblical scholarship shows that an accurate translation is “Thou shalt not commit murder.” There is a significant difference.

In Hebraic law of Old Testament times, murder was defined as unlawfully taking a life — i.e., causing the death of an innocent person. There were various degrees of homicide ranging from accidental and unintended cases to the worst form of homicide: premeditated murder. The penalty prescribed for premeditated murder was capital punishment. (See the entry for “murder” in *Harper’s Bible Dictionary*.) So opponents of capital punishment who argue that the Bible prohibits all killing are misinformed (as are conscientious objectors to military service who base their position on the Sixth Commandment). Actually, the Bible prohibits taking an innocent life.

“Thou shalt not commit murder” does not apply to warriors engaged in combat, where it is kill or be killed. It is legitimate to kill an enemy in war. Someone shooting at you is not an innocent person, and there is no reason to feel guilty about shooting back in deadly fashion. Feeling regret, yes, because life is sacred and nations should be able to settle their differences without war and killing. But feeling guilt, no.

John White

Cheshire, Connecticut

Conceding to Clinton

Until the day of the election, Trump and his family members were badgered because Donald wouldn’t commit to accepting the election results out of hand.

Maybe Donald Trump knew that vote counting happened in at least three prominent races in his lifetime.

Who can forget the infamous “long count” of 1960, when The Daley Machine of Chicago withheld that city’s tallies until all down-state totals were in, thus allowing it to determine how many Kennedy votes would be necessary to deprive Richard Nixon of his deserved victory?

Or how about the 2008 Minnesota U.S. Senate race where ballots mysteriously materialized from the trunk of an election official’s car, among other places, to help unseat the election-night-winning incumbent senator, after a nine-month multifaceted court battle?



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Or most egregious of all, the 2004 Washington State governor's race, where multiple recounts were required before Seattle election officials were able to *manufacture* enough new ballots to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, even though the total number of ballots finally counted *exceeded* the *total issued*, a fact that Washington's Supreme Court deemed irrelevant?

Who can deny that the common thread here is that all three election thefts were perpetrated by Democrat Party apparatchiks?

Russell W. Haas

Golden, Colorado

About Strife

About 25 years ago my wife and I met an African-American gentleman in the Chicago O'Hare airport as he read a copy of The New American magazine. It is interesting to note that this gentleman made the comment that he was thankful for slavery because without it he would be living in Africa.

No situation is absolutely perfect this side of heaven. Perhaps people — Americans of all races — should be more thankful for what they have going for them. Otherwise, there's always emigration.

Dr. Andrew Dickens

Sent via e-mail



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