**A Just War**

***The debate has long raged about the need*** ***for the war,*** but it will continue as long as there are two sides. Scholarly men have defended it and scholarly men have decried and denounced it. Religious leaders have demanded it and religious leaders have pleaded for peace and condemned any form of conflict or confrontation. Since both sides cannot be right, someone is wrong. Either it is just or it is not. Either it is worthy of the fight or it is not. There is justification or there is not. But you can't have it both ways. Choose your side and stand with it, but do not try to ride the fence and say you want it both ways.

 This war is one in which some are calling good ***evil*** and evil ***good***.**1** Some, though, are unable to discern between good and evil,**2** so they refuse to choose sides though it is clearly obvious who is right — and these are the ones who are supposed to be on our side! Some seem to be vacillating between the two sides and seem to be trying to make both sides happy by saying or doing nothing that would appear they have chosen sides. This is a constant source of frustration for those who know what is truly right and good, but it continues, nonetheless. Others who cannot discern between true good and true evil are calling the defenders of good and their ways 'evil**'3** and, if that was not bad enough, they are even calling our leader evil, too.**4** The opposition will go to great lengths to make him appear less than worthy of his position**5** and some would rather he not even be alive!**6**

In spite of the misinformation and constant confusion between what is truly good and truly evil, do not be deceived: this is a just war. This is a fight that we **must** fight**7** because it is a fight for the liberation of those who have not yet tasted freedom.**8** Only by our constant dedication to fighting in this war will others be set free**9** and be able to enjoy true life and liberty. That is something that all should enjoy — not just us.**10**

Others will try to compromise and try to appease the other side, with some even walking hand in hand with the enemy and making themselves out to be their friend, but such only identify themselves as our enemies.**11** We cannot walk with the enemy (who is seeking our destruction) and expect to survive.**12** We must make a clear distinction between those who are enemies and those who stand for what is right.**13** Instead of showing our support for them, we should expose them for what they are: the enemy.**14** These people are trying to destroy us!**15** They are not our friends! Some people need to wake up and come over to the right side and fight for what is right!**16**

As you may know, this war is being fought in ways we must admit might be construed as 'unconventional.'**17** Those who oppose us are using tactics that are based on deception**18** and they will go to great lengths to make it appear they are someone they are not. In fact, as has already been shown, the enemy often makes himself to look like he is on our side**19** and working for good, or simply an innocent and uninterested party. But such could not be further from the truth. It is for this reason we must be extremely careful and verify that those who claim to be on the side of good are, in actuality, on our side.**20** While some may appear to be our friend and willing to work with us, the truth is, they will do everything they can to destroy us or at least diminish our power to defeat them.

As we enter this war, we must ensure we are properly equipped for the battlefield, too. Knowing they will throw anything and everything against us, we must be prepared at all times for whatever may come. We must wear the right protective gear and carry the proper weapons.**21** We must be ready at all times,**22** and we must fight at all times.**23** The enemy is not going to rest until we are defeated, so we should never rest and never stop the fight until victory is achieved. Some have let down their guard and they have been overcome and overwhelmed.**24** But with the confident assurance of the promise of "no soldier left behind," we should do our level best to rescue those captured by the enemy, for we would want our fellow soldiers to do the same for us should we ever be found in the same situation.**25**

The battle will not be easy and it will not end anytime soon. As much as we would like to have peace, as long as some oppose what is right and good, there will be a battle to be fought. Because of this, we, as soldiers, will suffer some hardships,**26** and some will lose their life for the cause of freedom. But, let us not be distracted by less important matters and let these things draw our attention away from the battle at hand.**27** Let us also not let the extended duration of this battle weary us,**28** for we will win only if we hold out until the end.**29**

You may remember that a number of years ago, a great victory was achieved in this battle,**30** and some have erroneously concluded that this astounding defeat was a sign that the battle was over. On the contrary, it was just the beginning of a lengthy campaign of the enemy against us. His resounding defeat only strengthened his resolve to regain victory. Instead of surrendering or throwing in the towel, the enemy has recruited others to join in the fight and he has expanded his reach to the ends of the earth. Not until he has absolutely no power to fight will the enemy finally and forever be defeated.**31** Let us never forget this and let us take up our arms and fight.

I reiterate that this war is a just war. There is no doubt who is right and there is no doubt who is wrong. Choose sides and choose whom you will,**32** but you cannot remain neutral any longer.**33**

Did you think I was talking about Iraq? No, no, no…this is much more important. **—— Steven Harper**

1. Ephesians 5:20. **2.** Hebrews 5:14; Jeremiah 4:22. **3.** Acts 19:9. **4.** Matthew 9:34; 12:24. **5.** Luke 15:1; 23:2; John 18:30. **6.** Matthew 26:59. **7.** 1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12; Jude 1:3. **8.** 2 Timothy 2:24-26. **9.** John 8:32; Romans 6:22. **10.** 1 John 2:2. **11.** James 4:4. **12.** 1 Peter 5:7. **13.** 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. **14.** 2 John 1:9-11. **15.** Romans 8:7; 1 Peter 2:11; Galatians 5:17. **16.** 1 Corinthians 15:33, 34. **17.** 2 Corinthians 10:3, 4. **18.** 2 Peter 2:13, 18-19; Jude 1:16. **19.** 2 Corinthians 11:11-13. **20.** 1 John 4:1. **21.** Ephesians 6:11-18. **22.** 1 Peter 3:15. **23.** 2 Timothy 4:2. **24.** Galatians 6:1. **25.** James 5:19, 20. **26.** 2 Timothy 2:3. **27.** 2 Timothy 2:4. **28.** 2 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3. **29.** Hebrews 10:36. **30.** Hebrews 2:14, 15. **31.** 1 Corinthians 15:24-26. **32.** Joshua 24:15. **33.** Matthew 12:30.