\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_A REPLY TO THE TWELVE ARTICLES OF THE PEASANTS IN SWABIA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The peasants who have now banded together in Swabia have put their intolerable grievances against the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) into twelve articles, and undertaken to support them with certain passages of Scripture, and have [published](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1501.htm) them in [printed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1473.htm) form. The thing about them that pleases me [best](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic205.htm) is that, in the twelfth article, they offer to accept [instruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1026.htm) gladly and willingly, if there is need or necessity for it, and are willing to be corrected, in so [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) as that can be done by clear, plain, undeniable passages of Scripture, since it is right and proper that no one’s conscience should be [instructed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1025.htm) or corrected, except by [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) Scripture.

Now, if that is their serious and sincere meaning — and it would not be right for me to [interpret](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1031.htm) it otherwise, because in these articles they come out boldly into the open, and show no desire to [shun](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1721.htm) the [light](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1179.htm) — then there is good reason to [hope](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic953.htm) that things will be well. As one who am [counted](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic426.htm) among those who now deal with the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) Scriptures here on [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm), and especially as one whom they mention and call upon by name in the second document, it gives me the greater [courage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic431.htm) and [confidence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic400.htm) in openly publishing my [instruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1026.htm), which I do in a friendly and [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) spirit, as a [duty](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic601.htm) of [brotherly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic285.htm) [love](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1194.htm), in order that, if any misfortune or disaster shall come out of this matter, it may not be attributed to me, or [blamed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic235.htm) on me, because of my [silence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1728.htm). But if this offer of theirs is only pretense and show (and without doubt there are some of that [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) of people among them; for it is not possible that so great a [crowd](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic449.htm) should all be true [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and have good intentions, but a large part of them must be using the good intentions of the [rest](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1574.htm) for their own selfish purposes and seeking their own [advantage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic38.htm)), then without doubt, it will accomplish very little, or contribute, in fact, to their great injury and [eternal](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic662.htm) [ruin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1616.htm).

Because this matter, then, is great and perilous, concerning, as it does, both the [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and the [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) of the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) (for if this rebellion were to proceed and get the upper [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), both [kingdoms](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) would be [destroyed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm) and there would be neither [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) [government](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic845.htm) nor Word of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), but it would result in the permanent [destruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic542.htm) of all Germany), therefore it is necessary to speak boldly and to give [advice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic43.htm) without regard to anyone. It is also necessary that we be willing listeners and allow things to be said to us, so that our [hearts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic910.htm) may not be hardened and our [ears](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic604.htm) stopped, as has happened before now, and we may not get the full vigor of God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm). For the many [terrible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1865.htm) [signs](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1727.htm) that are seen both in [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm) and [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm), point to a great disaster and a mighty change in Germany. Although, [sad](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1628.htm) to say, we care little about this. Nevertheless, [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) goes on His way, and sometime He will make our hard heads soft.

TO THE PRINCES AND LORDS

We have no one on [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm) to thank for this mischievous rebellion, except you [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm) and lords; and especially you [blind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic240.htm) [bishops](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic229.htm) and [mad](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1206.htm) [priests](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1468.htm) and monks, whose [hearts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic910.htm) are hardened, even to the present day, and who do not cease to [rage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1526.htm) and rave against the holy [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), although you know that it is true, and that you cannot refute it. Besides, in your temporal [government](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic845.htm), you do nothing but flay and [rob](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1600.htm) your subjects, in order that you may lead a [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) of splendor and [pride](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1466.htm), until the [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm)common people can bear it no longer. The [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) is at your [throats](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1884.htm), but you think yourselves so firm in the saddle that no one can unhorse you. This false [security](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1683.htm) and stubborn perversity will [break](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic270.htm) your necks, as you will [discover](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic564.htm). I have often told you before to [beware](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic218.htm) of the saying, in <19A740> [Psalm 107:40](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvpsa107.htm#40), Effundit contemptum super principes, “He poureth contempt upon [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm).” You are striving after it, and want to be smitten over the head, and no warning or exhorting will help you to [avoid](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic136.htm) it.

Well, then, since you are the cause of this [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), it will undoubtedly come upon you, if you do not mend your ways in time. The [signs](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1727.htm) in [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm) and the [wonders](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2066.htm) on [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm) are meant for you, dear lords; they bode no good for you, and no good will come to you. A great part of God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) has already come, and [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is sending so many false [teachers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1856.htm) and [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) among us, so that through error and blasphemy we may richly deserve [hell](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic918.htm) and [everlasting](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic669.htm) [damnation](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic479.htm). The [rest](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1574.htm) of it is now here, for the peasants are mustering, and this must result in the [ruin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1616.htm), [destruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic542.htm), and desolation of Germany by cruel [murder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1291.htm) and bloodshed, unless [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) shall be moved by our repentance to prevent it.

For you ought to know, dear lords, that [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is doing this because this raging of yours cannot and will not and ought not be [endured](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) for long.

You must become different men and yield to God’s Word. If you do not do this amicably and willingly, then you will be compelled to it by force and [destruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic542.htm). If these peasants do not do it for you, others will. Even though you were to beat them all, they would still be unbeaten, for [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will raise up others. It is His will to beat you, and you will be beaten. It is not the peasants, dear lords, who are resisting you; it is [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) Himself who is resisting you in order to [visit](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2012.htm) your raging upon you. There are some of you who have said that they will stake [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) and people on the extirpation of Lutheran teaching. What would you think, if you were to turn out to be your own [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm), and your [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) and people were already staked? Do not jest with [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), dear lords! The [Jews](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1083.htm), too, said, “We have no king,” and it became so serious that they had to be without a king forever.

To make your [sin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1735.htm) still greater, and ensure your merciless [destruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic542.htm), some of you are beginning to [blame](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic235.htm) this affair on the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and say it is the fruit of my teaching. Well, well! Slander away, dear lords. You did not want to know what I taught, and what the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) is; now there is one at the [door](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic588.htm) who will soon [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) you, unless you amend your ways. You, and everyone else, must bear me witness that I have taught with all quietness, have striven earnestly against rebellion, and have diligently held and exhorted subjects to obedience and [reverence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1583.htm) toward even your tyrannous and ravenous rule. This rebellion cannot be coming from me. But the murderprophets, who [hate](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic899.htm) me as much as they [hate](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic899.htm) you, have come among these people and have gone about among them for more than three years, and no one has [resisted](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1572.htm) them [save](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1661.htm) me alone. If, therefore, [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is [minded](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1260.htm) to [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) you, and allows the [devil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic546.htm), through his false [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm), to stir up the people against you, and if it is, perhaps, His will that I shall not be able to prevent it any longer; what can I or my [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) do? Not only has it [suffered](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) your persecution and murdering and raging; it has also [prayed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) for you and helped protect and maintain your rule over the common people. If I had any desire to be revenged on you, I could [laugh](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1147.htm) in my sleeve, and become a mere onlooker at the doings of the peasants, or even join in with them and help make matters worse; but from this may my [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) [preserve](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1463.htm) me, as He has done hitherto.

Therefore, my dear lords, [enemies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic637.htm) or [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), I beg submissively that you will not [despise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic538.htm) my [faithfulness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic691.htm), though I am a [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm) man. I beg that you will not make [light](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1179.htm) of this rebellion. Not that I believe or [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) that they will be too [strong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1815.htm) for you, or that I would have you be afraid of them on that account. But [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and have respect for His [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm)! If it be His will to [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) you as you have deserved (and I am afraid that it is), then He would [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) you, even though the peasants were a [hundred](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic971.htm)times fewer than they are. He can make peasants out of [stones](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1800.htm) and [slay](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1748.htm) a [hundred](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic971.htm) of you by one peasant, so that all your [armor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic108.htm) and your [strength](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1809.htm) will be too little.

If it is still possible to give you [advice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic43.htm), my lords, give a little place to the will and [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). A cart-load of hay must give way to a [drunken](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic596.htm) man; how much more ought you to leave your raging and your obstinate tyranny and deal reasonably with the peasants, as though they were drunk or out of their [mind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1260.htm). Do not begin a struggle with them, for you do not know what the end of it will be. Try [kindness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1123.htm) first, for you do not know what [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) wills to do, and do not strike a spark that will kindle all Germany and that no one can quench. Our [sins](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1735.htm) are before [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm); therefore we have to [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) His [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) when even a [leaf](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1157.htm) rustles, let alone when such multitude sets itself in motion. You lose nothing by [kindness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1123.htm); and even though you were to lose something, it can afterwards come back to you ten times over in [peace](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1384.htm), while in [conflict](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic401.htm) you may, perhaps, lose both [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) and goods. Why [run](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1619.htm) into [danger](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic483.htm), when you can get more by another, and a good way?

The peasants have put forth twelve articles, some of which are so fair and just as to take away your [reputation](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1569.htm) in the [eyes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic680.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) and [fulfill](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic778.htm) the Psalm about pouring contempt upon [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm). Nevertheless, almost all of them are framed in their own interest and for their own good, though not for their [best](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic205.htm) good. I should, indeed, have put forth other articles against you that would have dealt with all Germany and its [government](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic845.htm).

I did this in my book To the German Nobility, when there was more at stake; but you made [light](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1179.htm) of that, and now you must listen to and put up with these selfish articles. It serves you right, as people to whom nothing can be told.

The first article, in which they ask the right to hear the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and choose their [pastors](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm), you cannot [reject](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1553.htm) with any show of right, though, to be sure, it contains some selfishness, since they allege that these [pastors](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm) are to be supported by the [tithes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1890.htm), and these do not [belong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic195.htm) to them. Nevertheless, the sense of the article is that permission should be given for the [preaching](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1455.htm) of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), and this no [ruler](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) can or ought oppose. Indeed no [ruler](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) ought to prevent anyone from teaching or believing what he pleases, whether [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) or [lies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1177.htm). It is enough if he prevents the teaching of [sedition](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1684.htm) and rebellion.

The other articles recite physical grievances, such as Leibfall, imposts and the like; and they, too, are fair and just. For [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) are not instituted in order that they may [seek](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1687.htm) their own [profit](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1481.htm) and self-will, but in order to [provide](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1494.htm) for the [best](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic205.htm) interests of their subjects. Flaying and extortion are, in the long [run](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1619.htm), intolerable. What good would it do if a peasant’s [field](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic721.htm) bore as many gulden as stalks or [grains](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic848.htm) of [wheat](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2040.htm), if that only meant that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) would take all the more, and make their splendor all the greater, and squander the property on [clothing](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic372.htm), eating, drinking, [building](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic287.htm), and the like, as though it were [chaff](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic328.htm)? The splendor would have to be checked and the expenditure stopped, so that a [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm) man too could keep something. You have gathered further information from their broadsides, in which they present their grievances sufficiently.

TO THE PEASANTS

So [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm), dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), you have [learned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1160.htm) only that I admit it to be ([sad](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1628.htm) to say!) all too true and certain that the [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm) and lords, who forbid the [preaching](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1455.htm) of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm)and [oppress](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1353.htm) the people so unbearably, are worthy, and have well deserved, that [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) put them down from their seats, as men who have [sinned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1735.htm) deeply against [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and man. And they have no excuse.

Nevertheless, you, too, must have a care that you take up your cause with a good conscience and with [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm). If you have a good conscience, you have the comforting [advantage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic38.htm) that [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will be with you, and will help you through. Even though you were worsted for awhile, and though you [suffered](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) [death](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic502.htm), you would win in the end, and would [preserve](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1463.htm) your [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm) eternally with all the [saints](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1637.htm). But if you have not [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm) and a good conscience, you will be worsted; and even though you were to win for awhile, and were to [slay](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1748.htm) all the [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm), yet in the end you would be lost eternally, body and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm). This is, therefore, no joking matter for you; it concerns your body and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm) eternally. The thing that is most necessary to consider and that must be most seriously regarded, is not how [strong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1815.htm) you are and how completely wrong they are, but whether you have [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm) and a good conscience on your side.

Therefore, dear [brethren](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic274.htm), I beg you, in a kindly and [brotherly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic285.htm) way, to look diligently to what you do, and not to believe all kinds of spirits and [preachers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1456.htm), now that [Satan](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1657.htm)has [raised](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1531.htm) up many [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm) spirits of disorder and of [murder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1291.htm), and filled the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) with them. Only listen and give [ear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic604.htm), as you offer many times to do. I will not spare you the earnest warning that I owe you, even though some of you, [poisoned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1437.htm) by the murderous spirits, will [hate](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic899.htm) me for it, and call me a [hypocrite](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic980.htm). That does not worry me; it is enough for me if I [save](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1661.htm) some of the good-hearted and upright men among you from the [danger](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic483.htm) of God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm). The [rest](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1574.htm) I [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) as little, as they [despise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic538.htm) me much; and they shall not harm me. I know One Who is greater and mightier than they are, and He [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) me in [Psalm 3](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvpsa3.htm), “I am not afraid, though many [thousands](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1882.htm) of people set themselves against me.” My [confidence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic400.htm) shall outlast their [confidence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic400.htm); that I know for sure.

In the first place, dear [brethren](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic274.htm), you bear the name of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and call yourselves a “Christian band” or union, and allege that you want to [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) and act “according to the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) [Law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm).” Now you know that the name, Word, and titles of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) are not to be assumed idly or in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm), as He says in the second [Commandment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic383.htm), “Thou shalt not bear the name of the [Lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) Thy [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm),” and adds “For [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will not let him be [guiltless](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic870.htm) who bears His name in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm).” Here is a clear, plain text, which applies to you, as to all men. Without regard to your great numbers, your rights, and your [terror](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1867.htm), it threatens you, as well as us and all others, with God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm). He is, as you also know, mighty enough and [strong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1815.htm) enough to [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) you as He here threatens, if His name is borne in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm); and so you have to expect no good fortune, but only misfortune, if you bear His name falsely. [Learn](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1160.htm) from this how to [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) yourselves; and accept this kindly warning. For Him Who once [drowned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic595.htm) the whole [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) in the [Flood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic740.htm) and sank [Sodom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1759.htm) with [fire](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic729.htm), it is a simple thing to [slay](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1748.htm) or to defeat so many [thousand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1882.htm) peasants. He is an [almighty](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic61.htm) and [terrible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1865.htm) [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm).

In the second place, it is easy to [prove](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1492.htm) that you are bearing God’s name in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm) and putting it to [shame](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1700.htm); nor is it to be doubted that you will, in the end, encounter all misfortune, unless [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is untrue. For here stands God’s Word, and says through the mouth of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), “He who takes the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) shall [perish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) by the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm).” That means nothing else than that no one, by his own [violence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2007.htm), shall arrogate [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm) to himself; but as [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) says, “Let every [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm) be subject to the higher powers with [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) and [reverence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1583.htm).”

How can you get over these sayings and [laws](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), when you [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) that you are acting according to [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), and yet take the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) in your own [hands](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), and revolt against the “higher powers” that are [ordained](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1358.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm)?

Do you not think that Paul’s [judgment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1108.htm) in [Romans 13:2](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvrom13.htm#2) will strike you, “He that withstands the [ordinance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1359.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) shall receive condemnation”?

That is “bearing God’s name in [vain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1985.htm);” alleging God’s [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) and withstanding God’s [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), under His name. O have a care, dear sirs! It will not turn out that way in the end.

In the third place, you say that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) are [wicked](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2045.htm) and intolerable, for they will not allow us the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), and they [oppress](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1353.htm) us too hard by the burdens they lay on our temporal goods, and they are ruining us body and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm). I answer: The fact that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) are [wicked](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2045.htm) and [unjust](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1949.htm) does not excuse tumult and rebellion, for to [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm)[wickedness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2046.htm) does not [belong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic195.htm) to everybody, but to the [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) who bear the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm). Thus [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) says in [Romans 13:4](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvrom13.htm#4), and Peter, in [1 Peter 2:7](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv1pet2.htm#7), that they are [ordained](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1358.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) for the [punishment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1503.htm) of the [wicked](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2045.htm). Then, too, there is the [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of all the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm), which says that no one may be [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) in his own cause or take his own [revenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1582.htm). The [proverb](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1493.htm) is true, “He who resists is wrong,” and the other [proverb](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1493.htm), “He who resists makes [strife](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1811.htm).” The [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) agrees with this, and says, in [Deuteronomy 32:35](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvdeu32.htm#35), “Vengeance is mine, I will [repay](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1563.htm), saith the [Lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm).” Now you cannot deny that your rebellion proceeds in such a way that you make yourselves your own judges, and [avenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic135.htm) yourselves, and are [unwilling](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1969.htm) to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) any wrong. That is contrary not only to [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) and the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), but also to [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) and all equity.

If your undertaking is to [prosper](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1489.htm), when you have against you the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) and [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of the Old and New Testaments, and also the [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), you must produce a new and special command of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), confirmed by [signs](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1727.htm) and [wonders](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2066.htm), which bids you do these things. Otherwise [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will not allow His Word and [ordinance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1359.htm) to be broken by your [violence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2007.htm). On the contrary, because you [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) of the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) and yet act against it, He will let you fall and be [punished](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) terribly, as men who [dishonor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic569.htm)His name; and then He will [condemn](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic397.htm) you eternally, as was said above. For the word of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) in [Matthew 7:3](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvmat7.htm#3), applies to you; you see the mote in the [eye](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic680.htm) of the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), and see not the beam in your own [eye](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic680.htm). Also the saying of [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) in [Romans 3:8](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvrom3.htm#8), “Let us do [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm) that good may come; whose [damnation](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic479.htm) is just and right.” It is true that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) do wrong when they suppress the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and [oppress](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1353.htm) you in temporal things; but you do much more wrong when you not only suppress God’s Word, but tread it under [foot](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic747.htm), and invade His [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm) and His [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), and put yourselves above [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). Besides, you take from the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) their [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm) and right; nay, all that they have.

For what have they left, when they have lost their [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm)?

I make you the judges, and leave it to you to decide who is the worse robber, the man who takes a large part of another’s goods, but [leaves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1157.htm) him something, or the man who takes everything that he has, and his living besides. The [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) unjustly take your property; that is the one side. On the other [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), you take from them the [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm), in which their whole property and [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) and being consist. Therefore, you are [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) greater robbers than they, and intend to do worse things than they have done. “Nay,” you say, “we are going to leave them enough to [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) on.” If anyone wants to believe that, let him! I do not believe it. One who [dares](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic486.htm) go so [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) as to take away, by force, the [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm), which is the main thing, will not leave it at that, but will take the other, and the smaller thing, that depends upon it.

The [wolf](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2063.htm) that eats a whole [sheep](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1706.htm) will also eat its [ear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic604.htm). And even though you were so good as to leave them enough to [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) on, nevertheless, you would take the [best](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic205.htm)thing they have, namely, their [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm), and make yourselves lords over them; and that would be too great a robbery and wrong. [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will hold you the greatest robbers.

Can you not [imagine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic990.htm) it, or figure it out, dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm)? If your enterprise were right, then any man might become [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) over another, and there would remain in the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) neither [authority](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm), nor [government](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic845.htm), nor order, nor [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm), but there would be only [murder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1291.htm) and bloodshed; for as soon as anyone saw that someone was wronging him, he would turn to and [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) him and [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) him. Now if that is [unjust](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1949.htm) and intolerable when done by an individual, neither can it be [endured](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) when done by a [band](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic156.htm)or a [crowd](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic449.htm). But if it can be [endured](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) from a [band](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic156.htm) or a [crowd](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic449.htm), it cannot be prevented with right and [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm) when individuals attempt it; for in both cases the cause is the same, namely, a wrong. And what would you do yourselves, if disorder broke out in your [band](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic156.htm), and one man set himself against another and took his own [vengeance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1994.htm)on him? Would you put up with that? Would you not say that he must let others, whom you [appointed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic94.htm), do the judging and avenging? How, then, do you expect to stand with [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm), when you do your own judging and avenging upon those who have [injured](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1016.htm) you; nay, upon your [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), whom [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) has [ordained](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1358.htm)?

Now, all this has been said concerning the common, [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) and [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) which even [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm), Turks, and [Jews](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1083.htm) have to keep, if there is to be any [peace](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1384.htm) or order in the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm). Even though you were to keep this whole [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), you would do no better and no more than [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) and Turks. For not to be one’s own [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) and avenger, but to leave this to the [authorities](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic133.htm) and the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), makes no man a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm); it is a thing that must eventually be done whether willingly or not. But because you are acting against this [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), you see plainly that you are worse than [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) or Turks, to say nothing of the fact that you are not [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). But what do you think that [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) will say to this? You bear His name, and call yourselves a “Christian [assembly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic123.htm),” and yet you are so [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) from [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and your actions and lives are so horribly contrary to His [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), that you are not worthy to be called even [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) or Turks, but are much worse than these, because you [rage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1526.htm) and struggle against the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) and [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm)[law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), which all the [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) keep.

See, dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), what [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) of [preachers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1456.htm) you have and what they think of your [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm). I [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) that some [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) of [murder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1291.htm) have come among you, who would like, by your means, to become lords in the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm), and do not care that they are endangering your [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm), property, [honor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic950.htm), and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm), temporally and eternally. If, now, it is really your will to keep the [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), as you [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm), then do it. There it stands! [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) says, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay”; and again, “Be subject not only to good lords, but also to the [wicked](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2045.htm).” If you do this, well and good; if not, you may, indeed, cause a calamity, but it will finally come upon yourselves. Let no one be in doubt about this! [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is just, and will not [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) it. Be careful, therefore, with your [liberty](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1175.htm), that you do not [run](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1619.htm) from the rain and fall in the [water](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2028.htm), and thinking to [gain](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic783.htm) [freedom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic770.htm) of body, lose body and goods and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm) eternally. God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) is there; [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) it, I advise you! The [devil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic546.htm) has sent false [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) among you; [beware](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic218.htm) of them!

And now we would go on, and speak of the [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), and of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), which is not binding on the [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm), as the other [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) is. For if you [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) that you are [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and are [glad](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic819.htm) when you are called [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and want to be known as [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), then you must also allow your [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) to be held up before you rightly. Listen, then, dear [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), to your [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm)! Your [Supreme](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1829.htm) [Lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), whose name you bear, says, in [Matthew 5:39](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvmat5.htm#39), “Ye shall not [resist](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1572.htm) [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm), but if any one compels you to go one [mile](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1257.htm), go with him two miles, and if anyone takes your cloak, let him have your coat, too; and if anyone [smites](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1754.htm) you on one cheek, offer him the other also.” Do you hear, “Christian assembly”? How does your undertaking agree with this [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm)? You will not [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) it when anyone does you [ill](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic988.htm) or wrong, but will be free, and [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) nothing but good and right; and [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) says that we are not to [resist](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1572.htm) any [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm) or wrong, but always yield, [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) it, and let things be taken from us. If you will not bear this [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), then put off the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) of another name that accords with your actions, or [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) Himself will tear His name from off you, and that will be too hard for you.

Thus says [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm), too, in [Romans 12:19](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvrom12.htm#19), “Avenge not yourselves, dearly [beloved](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic196.htm), but give place to the [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm).” Again, he [praises](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1453.htm) the Corinthians, in [2 Corinthians 11:20](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv2cor11.htm#20), because they [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) it gladly if a man [smite](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1754.htm) or [rob](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1600.htm) them; and in [1 Corinthians 6:1](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv1cor6.htm#1), he [rebukes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1538.htm) them because they went to [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) about property, and did not [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm)the wrong.

Nay our [Leader](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1156.htm), [Jesus](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1082.htm) [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), says, in [Matthew 5:44](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvmat5.htm#44), that we are to wish good to those who wrong us, and [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) for our persecutors, and do good to those who do [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm)to us. These are our [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [laws](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm)! Now see how [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) the false [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) have led you away from them, and yet they call you [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), though they have made you worse than [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm). For from these sayings, a [child](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic348.htm) easily grasps that it is [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) not to [strive](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1814.htm) against wrongs, not to grasp after the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm), not to protect oneself, not to [avenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic135.htm) oneself, but to give up [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) and property, and let who takes it take it; we have enough in our [Lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm), who will not leave us, as He has [promised](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1483.htm). Suffering, suffering; [cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm), [cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm)! This and nothing else, is the [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm)! But now you [battle](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic178.htm) for temporal goods, and will not let the coat go after the cloak, but want to [recover](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1542.htm) the cloak. How, then, will you [die](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm), and give up your [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm), or [love](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1194.htm) your [enemies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic637.htm), or do good to them?

O worthless [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm)! Dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) are not so common that so many of them can get together in one [crowd](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic449.htm). A [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) is a rare [bird](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic225.htm)!

Would to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) that the majority of us were good, pious [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm), who kept the [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), not to mention the [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm)!

I will also give you some illustrations of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) so that you may see whither the [mad](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1206.htm) [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) have led you. Look at St. Peter in the [garden](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic790.htm). He wanted to [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm)his [Lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) with the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm), and [cut](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic465.htm) off Malchus’ [ear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic604.htm).

Tell me, had not Peter great right on his side? Was it not an intolerable wrong that they were going to take from [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), not only His property, but also His [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm)? Nay, they not only took from Him [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) and property, but in so doing they entirely suppressed the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) by which they were to be [saved](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1661.htm), and thus [robbed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1600.htm) [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm). Such a wrong you have not yet [suffered](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm), dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm). But see what [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) does and [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) in this case. However great the wrong was, nevertheless He stopped St. Peter, bade him put up his [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm), and would not allow him to [avenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic135.htm) or prevent this wrong. In addition He passed a [judgment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1108.htm) of [death](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic502.htm) upon him, as though upon a murderer, and said, “He that takes the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) shall [perish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) with the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm).”

From this we must understand that it is not enough that anyone has done us wrong, and that we have a good case, and have right on our side, but we must also have the right and [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) [committed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic384.htm) to us by [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) to use the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) and [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) wrong. Moreover, a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) must also [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) it if anyone desires to keep the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) away from him; if, indeed, it is possible to keep the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) from anyone, as we shall hear.

A second example is [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) himself. What did He do when they took His [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) on the [cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm) and thereby took away from Him the [work](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2069.htm) of [preaching](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1455.htm) for which He had been sent by [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) Himself for the [blessing](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic239.htm) of the [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm) of men? He did just what St. Peter says. He committeed the whole matter to Him who judgeth righteously, and He [endured](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) this intolerable wrong.

More than that, He [prayed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) for His persecutors and said, “Father, [forgive](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic758.htm) them, for they know not what they do.”

Now, if you are true [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), you must certainly act in this same way and follow this example. If you do otherwise, then let go the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and the [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm); for then you are certainly not [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) but are resisting [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) and His [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), His [doctrine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic584.htm) and His example. But if you do it, you will quickly see God’s [miracles](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1264.htm) and He will help you as He helped [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) whom He [avenged](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic135.htm) after the completion of His passion, in such a way that His [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and His [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) won through with [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) and [gained](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic783.htm) the upper [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), in spite of all His [enemies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic637.htm). In this same way He will help you, too, and His [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) will rise with [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) among you, if you first [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) to the end, and leave the case to Him, and await His [vengeance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1994.htm). But now you yourselves are interfering, and wish to [conquer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic405.htm) and maintain yourselves, not with suffering, but with the fist. Thus you [hinder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic937.htm) His [vengeance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1994.htm), and will yourselves become the reason why you will keep neither [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) nor fist.

I must also give you an illustration from this present time. Pope and [emperor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic631.htm) have set themselves against me and have raged. Now how have I brought it about that the more pope and [emperor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic631.htm) have raged the more my [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) spread? I have never drawn [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) nor desired [revenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1582.htm). I have begun no [division](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic581.htm) and no rebellion, but, so [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) as I was able, I have helped the [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), even those who [persecuted](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1402.htm) the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and me, to maintain their [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) and [honor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic950.htm). But I have stopped with committing the matter to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and relying confidently at all times upon His [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm).

Therefore, He has not only [preserved](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1463.htm) my [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) in spite of the pope and all the tyrants (and this many really consider a great [miracle](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1264.htm); as I myself must also confess that it is), but He has caused my [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) always to increase and spread. Now you interfere with me. You want to help the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and do not see that by what you are doing you are hindering it and holding it down in the highest degree.

I say all this, dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), as a [faithful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic691.htm) warning. In this case you should rid yourselves of the name of [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and cease to [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm).

For no matter how right you are, it is not for a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) to appeal to [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), or to [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm), but rather to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) wrong and [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm); and there is no other way ( [1 Corinthians 6:5](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv1cor6.htm#5)). You yourselves confess in your Preface, that all who believe in [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) become kindly, [peaceful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1384.htm), [patient](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1379.htm), and united; but in your [deeds](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic515.htm) you are displaying nothing but impatience, turbulence, [strife](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1811.htm) and [violence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2007.htm); thus you [contradict](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic412.htm) your own words. You want to be known as [patient](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1379.htm) people, who will [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm)neither wrong nor [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm), but will [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) what is right and good. That is fine [patience](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1378.htm)! Any knave can [practice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1452.htm) it! It does not take a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) to do that! Therefore I say again, however good and right your cause may be, nevertheless, because you would [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm) yourselves, and [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) neither [violence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2007.htm) nor wrong, you may do anything that [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) does not prevent, but leave the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) out of it; leave out, I say, the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and do not make it a cloak for your impatient, disorderly, unchristian undertaking. I shall not let you have that name, but so long as there is a [heart](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic910.htm)-beat in my body, I shall do all I can to take that name from you. You will not succeed, or will succeed only in ruining your bodies and [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm).

In saying this, it is not my intention to [justify](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1113.htm) or [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm) the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) in the intolerable wrongs which you [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) from them. They are wrong, and do you cruel wrongs; that I admit. But what I [hope](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic953.htm) is that, if neither party will allow itself to be [instructed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1025.htm), and the one party attacks and comes to blows with the other (which [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) forbid!), neither shall be called [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), but that, as is usual when one people fights with another, [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will [punish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm) one knave with another, as the saying goes. If it comes to a [conflict](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic401.htm) (which may [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) graciously avert!), I [hope](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic953.htm) that you will be [counted](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic426.htm) as people of such a [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) and such a name that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) may know that they are fighting not against [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) but against [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm); and that you, too, may know that you are fighting the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) not as [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) but as [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm). For [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm) for themselves not with [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) and gun, but with the [Cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm) and with suffering, just as [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), our [Leader](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1156.htm), does not bear a [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm), but hangs on the [Cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm). Your [victory](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1999.htm), therefore, does not consist in conquering and reigning, or in the use of force, but in defeat and in [weakness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2031.htm), as St. [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) says in [2 Corinthians 1](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv2cor1.htm), “The [weapons](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2034.htm) of our knighthood are not [carnal](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic315.htm), but mighty in God”; and again, “Strength is made [perfect](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1395.htm) in [weakness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2031.htm).”

Your name and title must be those of people who [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm) because they will not, and ought not, [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) wrong or [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm), according to the teaching of [nature](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1310.htm). You should have that name, and let the name of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) alone, for that is the [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) of works that you are doing. If, however, you will not take that name, but keep the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), then I must understand that this cause is my cause, and [count](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic426.htm) and hold you as [enemies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic637.htm) who would quench or [hinder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic937.htm) my [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) more than pope and [emperor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic631.htm) have so [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) done, since under the name of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) you are acting against the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). Nor would I conceal from you what I expect to do. I shall [commit](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic384.htm) the cause to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), stake my own [neck](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1314.htm), by God’s [grace](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic847.htm), and rely confidently on Him, as I have hitherto done against pope and [emperor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic631.htm), and [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) for you, that He may enlighten you, and [resist](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1572.htm) your undertaking, and not let it succeed. For I see well that the [devil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic546.htm), who has not been able to [destroy](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm) me by means of the pope, now [seeks](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1687.htm)to [abolish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic13.htm) me and [swallow](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1834.htm) me up by means of the bloodthirsty [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) of [murder](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1291.htm) and spirits of turbulence that are among you. Well, let him [swallow](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1834.htm) me! I will leave little enough [room](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1609.htm) in his [belly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic194.htm); that I know! And even if you win, you will have [small](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1753.htm) enjoyment of it! I beg you, humbly and kindly, to come to your senses and not make it necessary for me to [trust](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1930.htm) and [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) against you.

For although I am a [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm), [sinful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1738.htm) man, I know and am certain that in this case I have a right cause, if I [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm) in behalf of the name “Christian” and [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) that it be not put to [shame](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1700.htm). I am sure, too, that my prayer is acceptable to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and will be heard, for He Himself has taught us to [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm), in the Lord’s Prayer, “Hallowed be thy name,” and in the Second [Commandment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic383.htm) He has forbidden that it be put to [shame](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1700.htm). Therefore I beg that you will not think lightly of my prayer and the prayer of those who [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm)along with me, for it will be too mighty for you and will arouse [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) against you, as St. James says, “The prayer of the [righteous](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1591.htm) availeth much, if it persist, as the prayer of [Elijah](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic625.htm) did.” We have also many comfortable [promises](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1483.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) that He will hear us, such as [John 14:14](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvjoh14.htm#14), “What ye ask in my name, I will do”; and 1 [John 5:14](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvjoh5.htm#14), “If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.” Such [confidence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic400.htm) and assurance in prayer you cannot have because your own conscience and the Scriptures testify that your enterprise is heathenish, and not [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and under the name of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), works against the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) and brings contempt upon the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). I know that none of you has ever once [prayed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) or called upon Him in behalf of this cause. You could not do it! For you [dare](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic486.htm) not lift your [eyes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic680.htm) to Him in this case; but only shake defiance with the fist which you have clenched in impatience and with an intolerant will. This will not turn out well for you.

If you were [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), you would stop defying and threatening, and stay inside the Lord’s Prayer, and advance your cause with [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) by praying, and say, “Thy will be done,” and “Deliver us from [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm). [Amen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic70.htm).” You see in the Psalter that the true [saints](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1637.htm) take their necessities to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), and lament them, and [seek](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1687.htm) aid from Him, and do not [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm) themselves or [resist](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1572.htm) [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm). Such prayer would have done more to help you, in all your needs, than if the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm) were full of you, especially if, beside that, you had a good conscience, and a comforting assurance that your prayers were heard, as His [promises](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1483.htm) declare; such as [1 Timothy 4:10](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjv1tim4.htm#10), “He is the [helper](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic921.htm) of all men, especially of the [believers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic193.htm),” and [Psalm 50:15](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvpsa50.htm#15), “Call upon me in [trouble](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1928.htm), and I will help thee”; and [Psalm 91:15](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvpsa91.htm#15), “He called upon me in [trouble](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1928.htm), therefore will I [deliver](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic526.htm) him.” See! That is the [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) way to get rid of misfortune and [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm), namely, [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) it and call upon [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). But because you do neither — neither call nor [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) — -but aid yourselves with your own might, and make yourselves your own [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and [Savior](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1662.htm), therefore [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) cannot and must not be your [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) or [Savior](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1662.htm). By God’s permission (which, we [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm), may not be given!), you might accomplish something as [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) and blasphemers, though only for your [eternal](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic662.htm) and temporal [ruin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1616.htm); but as [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), or Evangelicals, you will win nothing; I would wager a [thousand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1882.htm) necks in it!

On the basis of what has been said, all your articles are easily answered; for even though all of them were right and proper according to the [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of [Nature](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1310.htm), nevertheless you have forgotten the [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm), since you have not put them through by means of [patience](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1378.htm) and prayer to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), as [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) people ought, but have undertaken, with impatience and [violence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2007.htm), to wrest them from the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), and [extort](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic679.htm) them by force; and this is against the [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) of the [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) and against [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm). The man who framed your articles is no pious and [honest](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic946.htm) man, for he has indicated on the margin many chapters of Scripture, on which the articles are supposed to [rest](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1574.htm), but keeps the porridge in his mouth, and [leaves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1157.htm) out the passages by which he would show his own [wickedness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2046.htm) and that of your enterprise. He has done this to [deceive](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic511.htm) you and urge you on and bring you into [danger](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic483.htm). For the chapters he adduces, when they are read through, say very little in [favor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic706.htm) of your undertaking, but rather the opposite; viz, that men shall [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) and act as [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). He is some [prophet](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) of turbulence, who [seeks](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1687.htm), through you, to [work](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2069.htm) his will upon the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). May [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) prevent, and [guard](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic865.htm) you against him!

In the Preface you are conciliatory and allege that you would not be seditious, and make the excuse that you desire to [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) and [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) according to the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). There your own mouth and your own works [rebuke](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1538.htm) you, for you confess that you are making disturbances and rising in revolt, and you want to [adorn](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic34.htm) such [conduct](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic399.htm) by means of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). You have heard above that the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) that [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) ought to [endure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic636.htm) and [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) wrong, and [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) in all their necessities, yet you are not willing to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm), but like [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm), force the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) to [conform](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic402.htm) to your impatient will.

You adduce the [children](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic349.htm) of [Israel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1047.htm) as an example, saying that [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) heard their crying and [delivered](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic526.htm) them. Why then do you not follow the example that you bring forward? Call upon [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and wait until He sends you a [Moses](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1287.htm), who will [prove](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1492.htm) by [signs](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1727.htm) and [wonders](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2066.htm) that he is sent from [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). The [children](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic349.htm) of [Israel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1047.htm) did not [riot](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1595.htm) against [Pharaoh](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1408.htm), or help themselves as you propose to do. This illustration, therefore, is dead against you, and condemns you. You [boast](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic245.htm) of it, and yet you do the opposite.

Again, it is not true when you declare that you [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) and [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm) according to the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). There is not one of the articles which [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) a single point of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), but everything is directed to one purpose; namely, that your bodies and your properties may be free. In a word, they all deal with [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) and temporal matters. You would have [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) and [wealth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2032.htm), so as not to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) wrong; and yet the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) does not take [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) matters into account, and makes the external [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) consist only in suffering, wrong, [cross](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic448.htm), [patience](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1378.htm), and contempt for temporal [wealth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2032.htm) and [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm). How, then, does the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) agree with you; except that you are seeking to give your unevangelical and unchristian enterprise an evangelical [appearance](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic93.htm), and do not see that you are thereby bringing [shame](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1700.htm) on the holy [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm), and making it a cloak for [wickedness](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2046.htm)? Therefore you must take a different attitude, and either drop this matter entirely and decide to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) these wrongs, if you would be [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and have the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm); or else, if you are going on with it, make use of another name and not be called and considered [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). There is no third course, and no other way.

True enough, you are right in desiring the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), if you are really in earnest about it. Indeed, I am willing to make this article even sharper than you do, and say it is intolerable that anyone should be shut out of [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm) and driven by force into [hell](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic918.htm). No one should [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) that; he ought rather lose his [neck](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1314.htm) a [hundred](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic971.htm) times. But he who keeps the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) from me, shuts [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm) against me and drives me by force into [hell](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic918.htm); for the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) is the only way and means for the soul’s [salvation](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1643.htm), and on [peril](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1398.htm) of losing my [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm), I should not [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) this. Tell me, is that not stated sharply enough?

And yet it does not follow that I must set myself with my fist against the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) who do me this wrong. “But,” you say, “how am I at once to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) it and not [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) it?” The answer is easy. It is [impossible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic997.htm) that anyone shall have the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) kept from him. There is no [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) in [heaven](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic913.htm) or [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm) that can do this, for it is a [public](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1499.htm) teaching that moves freely about under the heavens and is bound to no one place. In this it is like the [star](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1786.htm), running through the [air](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic54.htm), which showed Christ’s [birth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic226.htm) to the [wise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2061.htm) men from the East.

It is true, indeed, that the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) may suppress the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) in cities or places where the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) is, or where there are [preachers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1456.htm); but you can leave these cities or places and follow the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) to some other place. It is not necessary that, for the Gospel’s sake, you should capture or hold the city or place; but let the [lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) have his city, and do you follow the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). Thus you [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) men to do you wrong and drive you away; and yet, at the same time you do not [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) men to take the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) from you or keep it from you. Thus the two things, suffering and not suffering, come to one. If you will hold the city for the sake of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), you [rob](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1600.htm) the [lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) of the city of what is his, and pretend that you are doing it for the Gospel’s sake. Dear [friend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) does not [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) robbing or the taking of things, even though the [lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) of the property [abuses](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic22.htm) it by using it against [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), wrongfully, and to your injury. The [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) needs no bodily place or city to dwell in; it will and must dwell in [hearts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic910.htm). This is what [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) taught in [Matthew 10:23](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvmat10.htm#23), “If they drive you out of one city, [flee](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic736.htm) to another.” He does not say, “If they drive you out of one city, stay there, and capture the city, to the [praise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1453.htm) of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), and make a [riot](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1595.htm) against the [lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) of the city,” though that is what men now want to do, and what they are teaching.

But He says, “Flee, [flee](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic736.htm) straightway into another, until the Son of Man shall come.” Thus He says, too, in [Matthew 23](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvmat23.htm), that the godless shall drive His [evangelists](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic667.htm) from one city to another; and [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) also says, in Corinthians 4:11, “We are in no certain place.” If it so happen that a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) must be moving constantly from one place to another, and leaving the place where he is and everything that he has, or if he sit in uncertainty, expecting this to happen any hour, then it is well with him; it is as it should be with a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). For because he will not [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm) to be taken from him or kept from him, he has to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) city, place, property, and everything that he is and has, to be taken and kept from him.

Now how does this agree with your undertaking? You capture and hold cities and places that are not yours, and will not [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) them to be taken or kept from you; though you take and keep them from their [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) lords.

What [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) of [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) are these, who, for the Gospel’s sake, become robbers, [thieves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1876.htm), and scoundrels, and then say they are evangelicals?

ON THE FIRST ARTICLE “An entire community shall have the [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm) to choose and [depose](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic530.htm) a [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm).” This article is right if only it were understood in a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm)sense, though the chapters indicated on the margin do not help it. If the goods of the parish come from the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm), and not from the community, then the community cannot apply these goods to the use of him whom they choose, for that would be robbery and [theft](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1873.htm). If they desire a [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm), let them first humbly ask one from the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm). If the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) are [unwilling](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1969.htm), then let them choose their own [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm), and support him with their own property, and let the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) have their property, or else [secure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1682.htm)it from them in a [lawful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1149.htm) way. But if the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) will not tolerate the [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm) whom they chose and support, then let him [flee](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic736.htm) to another city, and let any [flee](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic736.htm) with him who will, as [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm). That is a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and evangelical way to choose and have one’s own [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm). Whoever does otherwise, acts in an unchristian manner, as a robber and [brawler](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic268.htm).

ON THE SECOND ARTICLE “The [tithes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1890.htm) shall be divided out to the [pastor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1376.htm) and the [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm), and the balance kept for needs of the [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm), etc.” This article is nothing but [theft](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1873.htm)and [highway](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic935.htm) robbery. They would appropriate for themselves the [tithes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1890.htm), which are not theirs but the rulers’, and would do with them what they please.

Not so, dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm)! That is the same thing as deposing the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) altogether, when your preface expressly says that no one is to be deprived of what is his. If you would make [gifts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic814.htm) and do good, do it out of your own property, as the [Wise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2061.htm) Man says, for [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) says by Isaiah, “I [hate](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic899.htm) the [sacrifice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1626.htm) that is got by robbery.” You speak in this article as though you were already lords in the [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) and had taken all the property of the [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm) for your own and would be no one’s subjects, and would give nothing.

From this one grasps what you have in [mind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1260.htm). Stop it, dear sirs, stop it! It will not be you who end it! The chapters of Scripture that your [lying](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1177.htm) [preacher](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1456.htm) and false [prophet](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) has smeared on the margin, do not help you at all; they are against you.

ON THE THIRD ARTICLE “There shall be no serfs, for [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) has made all men free.” That is making [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [liberty](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1175.htm) an utterly [carnal](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic315.htm) thing. Did not [Abraham](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic16.htm) and other patriarchs and [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) have [slaves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1747.htm)? Read what St. [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) [teaches](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) about [servants](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1694.htm), who, at that time, were all [slaves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1747.htm). Therefore this article is dead against the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm). It is a piece of robbery by which every man takes from his [lord](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1192.htm) the body, which has become his lord’s property. For a [slave](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic644.htm) can be a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and have [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [liberty](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1175.htm), in the same way that a [prisoner](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1476.htm) or a [sick](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1722.htm) man is a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and yet not free. This article would make all men equal, and turn the [spiritual](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1779.htm) [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) of [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) into a [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm), external [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm); and that is [impossible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic997.htm). For a [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm) [kingdom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) cannot stand unless there is in it an inequality of persons, so that some are free, some [imprisoned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic999.htm), some lords, some subjects, etc.; and St. [Paul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1382.htm) says in [Galatians 3:28](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvgal3.htm#28), that in [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm) master and [servant](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1694.htm) are one thing. On this subject my [friend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm) Urban Regius has written enough; you may read further in his book.

ON THE OTHER EIGHT ARTICLES

The other articles, about [freedom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic770.htm) of game, [birds](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic225.htm), [fish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic732.htm), [wood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2067.htm), forests; about services, [tithe](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1890.htm), imposts, excises, Todfall, etc., — these I leave to the [lawyers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1152.htm), for it is not fitting that I, an [evangelist](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic667.htm), should [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) or decide them. It is for me to [instruct](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1025.htm) and [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) men’s consciences in things that concern [divine](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic579.htm) and [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) matters; there are books enough about the other things in the imperial [laws](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm). I have said above that these things do not concern a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), and that he cares nothing about them. He lets anyone else [rob](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1600.htm), take, [skin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1742.htm), scrape, [devour](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic549.htm), and [rage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1526.htm), for he is a martyr on [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm).

Therefore the peasants ought rightly let the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) alone, and act in some other name, as men who want human and [natural](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1309.htm) rights, not as those who [seek](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1687.htm)[Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) rights. This means that on all these points they should keep still, [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm), and make their complaints to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) alone.

See, dear [friends](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic773.htm), this is the [instruction](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1026.htm) that you asked of me in the second document. I beg that you will remember that you offer willingly to be [instructed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1025.htm) by the Scriptures. Now when this reaches you, do not [cry](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic455.htm) out at me, “Luther flatters the [princes](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1470.htm) and speaks contrary to the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm).” First read and see my arguments from Scripture; for this is your affair; I am excused in the sight of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and the [world](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2070.htm). I know well the false [prophets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1486.htm) that are among you. Do not listen to them. They are surely deceiving you.

They do not think of your consciences, but would make Galatians of you, so that by means of you they might come to [wealth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2032.htm) and [honor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic950.htm), and must afterwards, with you, be [damned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic477.htm) eternally in [hell](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic918.htm).

ADMONITION TO BOTH RULERS & PEASANTS

Therefore, dear sirs, since there is nothing [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) on either side and nothing [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) is at issue between you, but both lords and peasants are dealing with heathenish, or [worldly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2071.htm), right and wrong, and with temporal goods; since, moreover, both parties are acting against [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and are under His [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm), as you have heard; — therefore, for God’s sake, let yourselves be advised, and attack these matters as such matters are to be attacked, that is, with [justice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1112.htm) and not with force or with [strife](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1811.htm), and do not start an [endless](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic635.htm) bloodshed in Germany. For because both of you are wrong, and both of you would [avenge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic135.htm) and [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm) yourselves, both of you will [destroy](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm)yourselves and [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will use one knave to flog another.

You lords have both Scripture and history against you, for both tell how tyrants are [punished](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1502.htm). Even the [heathen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic912.htm) [poets](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1435.htm) say that tyrants seldom [die](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm) a dry [death](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic502.htm), but usually have been slain, and have [perished](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) in [blood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic242.htm).

Because, then, it is an assured fact that you rule tyranically and with [rage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1526.htm), prohibit the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), and [skin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1742.htm) and [oppress](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1353.htm) the [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm), you have no reason for [confidence](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic400.htm) or [hope](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic953.htm) that you will [perish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) otherwise than your [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) have [perished](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm).

Look at all the [kingdoms](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1125.htm) that have come to their end by the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm), — [Assyria](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic124.htm), [Persia](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1404.htm), Greece, [Rome](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1607.htm). They have all been [destroyed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm) at last in the same way that they [destroyed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm) others. Thus [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) shows that He is [judge](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1107.htm) upon [earth](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic605.htm) and [leaves](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1157.htm) no wrong unpunished. Therefore nothing is more certain than that this same [judgment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1108.htm) is close to you, whether it come now or later, unless you reform.

You peasants also have Scripture and experience against you. They [teach](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1855.htm) that turbulence has never had a good end, and [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) has always held strictly to the word, “He that takes the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm) shall [perish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) by the [sword](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1839.htm).” Because, then, you are doing wrong by judging yourselves and avenging yourselves, and are bearing the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) [unworthily](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1971.htm) besides, you are certainly under the [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm); and even though you win and [destroy](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm) all the lords, in the end you would have to tear the [flesh](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic737.htm)from one another’s [bones](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic255.htm), like [wild](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2049.htm) [beasts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic180.htm). For because not spirit, but [flesh](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic737.htm) and [blood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic242.htm), rules among you, [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) will shortly send an [evil](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic670.htm) spirit among you, as He did to the men of Shechem and to Abimelech. See the end that finally comes to turbulence in the [story](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1803.htm) of Korah, in [Numbers 16:31](http://www.godrules.net/library/kjv/kjvnum16.htm#31), and of [Absalom](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic18.htm), [Sheba](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1705.htm), Samri and their like. Briefly, [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) [hates](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic899.htm) both tyrants and rebels; therefore He sets them on each other, so that both parties [perish](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1399.htm) shamefully, and His [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) and [judgment](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1108.htm) upon the godless are fulfilled.

To me the saddest and the really [pitiful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1430.htm) thing, and that which I would willingly [buy](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic297.htm) off with my own [life](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1178.htm) and [death](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic502.htm), is that on both sides two inevitable injuries must follow. For because neither party [strives](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1814.htm) with a good conscience, but both [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm) for the upholding of wrong, it must follow, in the first place, that those who are slain are lost eternally, body and [soul](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm), as men who [die](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm) in their [sins](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1735.htm), without penitence and without [grace](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic847.htm), in the [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). There is nothing to be done for them. The lords would be fighting for the strengthening and maintaining of their tyranny, their persecution of the [Gospel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic843.htm), and their [unjust](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1949.htm) oppression of the [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm), or else for the aiding of that [kind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1122.htm) of [rulers](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1617.htm). That is a [terrible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1865.htm) wrong and is against [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm). He who [commits](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic384.htm) such a [sin](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1735.htm) must be lost eternally. The peasants, on the other [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), would [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm) to [defend](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic518.htm) their turbulence and their [abuse](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic22.htm) of the name of [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm). Both these things are greatly against [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm), and he who [dies](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm) in them or for them must also be lost eternally, and there is no help for it.

The second injury is that Germany will be laid waste, and if this bloodshed once starts, it will scarcely cease until everything is [destroyed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic541.htm). It is easy to start a [fight](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic725.htm), but to stop it when we will is not in our [power](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1450.htm). What have they ever done to you — all these [innocent](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1020.htm) [children](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic349.htm), [women](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2064.htm), and old people, whom you [fools](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic746.htm) are drawing with you into such [danger](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic483.htm) — that you should fill the [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) with [blood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic242.htm) and robbery [widows](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2047.htm) and orphans? Oh, the devil’s [mind](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1260.htm) is [wicked](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2045.htm) enough! And [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) is [angry](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic76.htm), and threatens to let him loose upon us and cool his [rage](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1526.htm) in our [blood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic242.htm) and [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm). [Beware](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic218.htm), dear sirs, and be [wise](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2061.htm)! It concerns both of you! What good will it do you to [condemn](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic397.htm) yourselves eternally and willfully and leave behind you, for your descendants, a [desolate](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic536.htm) and devastated and bloody [land](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1141.htm) besides, when you could arrange things better, while there is still time, by penitence toward [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and friendly [agreement](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic50.htm), or by suffering in the sight of men? With defiance and [strife](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1811.htm) you will do nothing.

It would, therefore, be my [faithful](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic691.htm) [counsel](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic424.htm) to choose from among the nobles certain [counts](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic426.htm) and lords, and from the cities certain councilmen, and have these matters dealt with in a friendly way, and settled; that you lords let down your stubbornness — as you must do in the end, whether you will or will not — and give up a little of your tyranny and oppression, so that [poor](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1443.htm) people get [air](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic54.htm) and [room](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1609.htm) to [live](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1186.htm); that the peasants for their part, let themselves be [instructed](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1025.htm), and give over and let go some of the articles that grasp too [far](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic697.htm) and too high, so that the case may be settled by human [law](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1148.htm) and [agreement](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic50.htm), even though it cannot be dealt with in a [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) way.

If you shall not follow this [advice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic43.htm) (and [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) forbid that you do not follow it!), I must let you come to grips, but I am [guiltless](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic870.htm) as regards your [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm), your [blood](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic242.htm), and your property; you will bear the guilt yourselves. I have told you that you are both wrong and that your fighting is wrong. You lords are not fighting against [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), — for [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) do nothing against you, but prefer to [suffer](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1823.htm) all things — but against open robbers and defamers of the [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) name. Those of them who [die](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm) are already [condemned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic397.htm) eternally. On the other [hand](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic882.htm), you peasants are not fighting against [Christians](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm), but against tyrants, and persecutors of [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) and man, and murderers of the holy [Christ](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic353.htm). Those of them who [die](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic553.htm) are also [condemned](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic397.htm) eternally. There you have God’s sure verdict upon both parties; that I know. Do what you please to keep your bodies and [souls](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1769.htm), if you will not follow this verdict.

I, however, will [pray](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1454.htm) to my [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) that He will either bring both your parties to [agreement](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic50.htm) and unite you, or else prevent things from turning out as you intend. To be sure, the [terrible](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1865.htm) [signs](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1727.htm) and [wonders](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2066.htm) that have come to pass in these times give me a heavy [heart](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic910.htm) and make me [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) that God’s [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) has become too [strong](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1815.htm); as He says in Jeremiah — “Though [Noah](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1328.htm), Job, and Daniel stood before me, I would have no [pleasure](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1434.htm) in the people.” Would to [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) that you might [fear](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic707.htm) His [wrath](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic2077.htm) and amend your ways, that the [plague](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic1431.htm) of it might be put off and postponed a while! At all events, I have given all of you, faithfully enough, [Christian](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic354.htm) and [brotherly](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic285.htm) [advice](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic43.htm). [God](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic830.htm) grant that it may help! [Amen](http://www.godrules.net/library/topics/topic70.htm)