

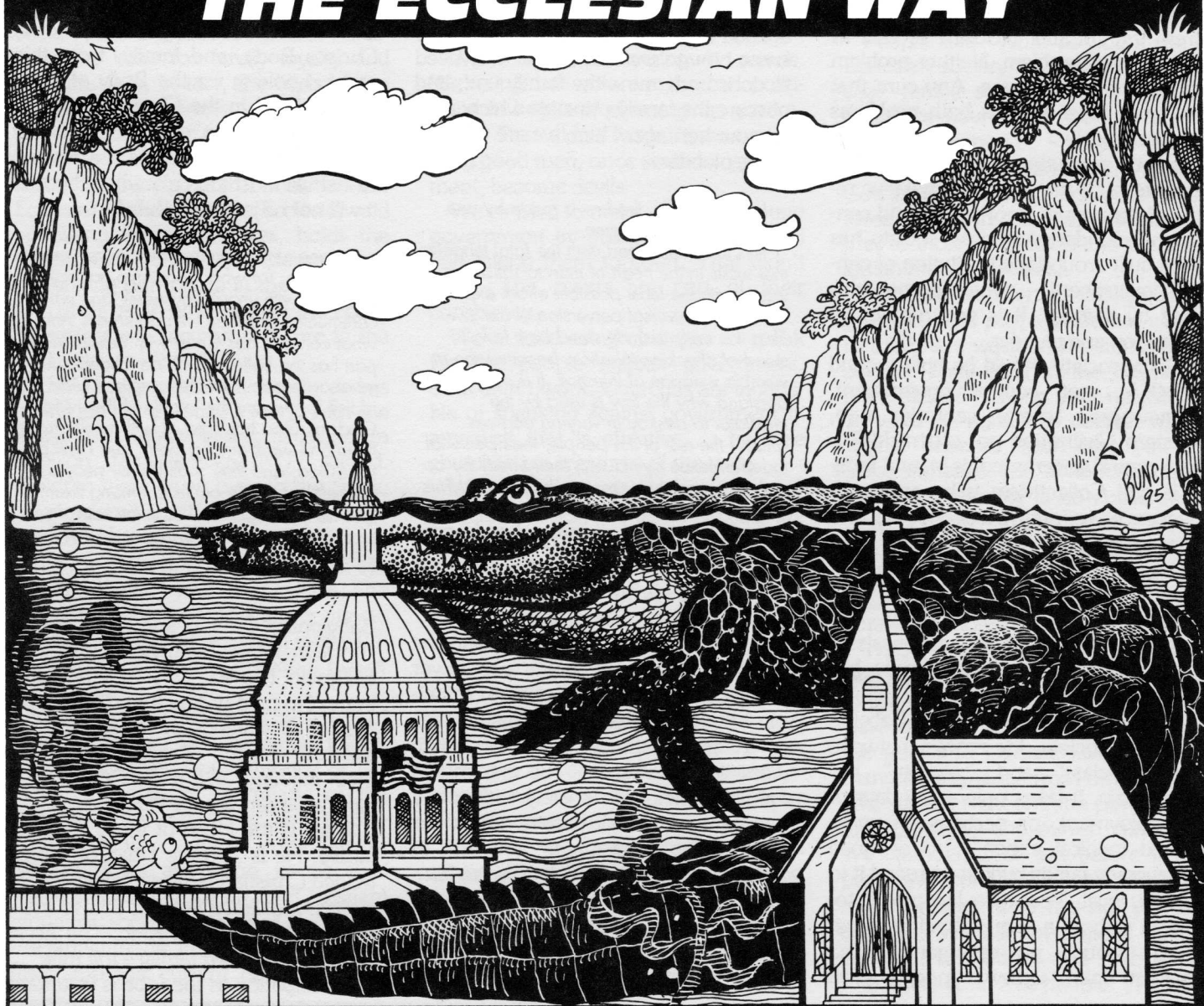
# THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN

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*"... let Facts be submitted to a candid world."*



## THE ECCLESIAN WAY





# THE ECCLESIAN WAY

## Lighting a Candle Rather Than Cursing The Darkness

by Ben Williams

Security and peace of mind in America has been reduced to only a memory for many of us. We've seen financial hard times coming for years. It is obviously here. But what is even more sobering is the spiritual hard times that are upon us ... and we've brought this upon ourselves.

America is bankrupt both financially and spiritually. If we are to find a method to cure America's civil problems we must first address her spiritual problems. Neither can be corrected alone. Any cure that will work must address both problems.

Is there a solution? Yes, there is.

Our crisis today is the natural cumulative result of decades of ignoring God's law. We've condoned institutional plunder. American society has been built around the institutions of central government and central banking ... both operate by plunder.

Godly society should be built around FAMILY and ECCLESIA, not central government and banking.

A long time ago, Western Civilization got off track! Today, central government is IN, and family is OUT! Man thinks he is god, and he has forgotten about the true God!

Patriots are concerned about upholding and protecting the Constitution and the government. But neither of these is concerned about family. Clearly, the Babylonian model of society centers around central power.

As a result of living in a Babylon model of society, Americans have no protection against the banksters. Families live on or near the brink of poverty. It takes only a few days of unemployment, or perhaps an unexpected medical expense, to overload the average family budget and send it out of control. Most folks live month-to-month with no buffer to get them through a financial disruption. The Babylon system's remedy for this is to put people deeper into debt with more loans.

With no reserves to fall back on in hard times, the so-called "middle

class" is getting nearer to the poverty level. Americans are being kept fearful, threatened, and more easily controlled by the political planners.

The political planners know that an impoverished public is more tractable. Our weakness is their strength. When the common people lose power the rulers gain power. Therefore, government's agenda is to keep us weak ... and they know how to weaken us. Their main tool is to undermine the family unit and obscure the family principle. That makes us vulnerable to plunder.

*But, generally, the law is made by one man or one class of men. ... This fact, combined with the fatal tendency that exists in the heart of man to satisfy his wants with the least possible effort, explains the almost universal perversion of the law. Thus it is easy to understand how (man's) law, instead of checking injustice, becomes the invincible weapon of injustice. It is easy to understand why the law is used by the legislator to destroy in varying degrees among the rest of the people, their personal independence by slavery, their liberty by oppression, and their property by plunder. This is done for the benefit of the person who makes the law, and in proportion to the power that he holds.*

THE LAW, pg. 10-11, Fredric Bastiat (1850)

Whoever makes your law is your god. If man makes your law, then your law will be built around man's perversions and lusts.

Truth is the key to freedom and strength. When our people lose power it is because they lose truth ... and that leads to the loss of faith. The loss of the faith in society makes the people weak. Weak people look to government ... which, in turn, causes greater break down of family, and greater weakness ... which precipitates more government ... and on and on.

But, the reverse is true as well.

Truth strengthens us. Strong people do not prefer big government. Family is the key! And for Christian people, the extended family (the Christian Ecclesia) is the answer for society.

The Body of Christ is a family – a spiritual tribe. It functions by family principles (love, loyalty, faith, etc.). Abandon those principles, as American society has done, and the Body of Christ goes elsewhere – possibly underground. Thus, central government and modern society have abandoned Christ's Body, and family. Looking for the Body of Christ in the Church or State is like looking for a ship in the desert. You won't find it! We must look elsewhere.

14. *Be you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness?*
15. *And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has the believer with an infidel?*
16. *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for we are the temple of the living God; as God has said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
17. *Wherefore come out from among them, and be you separate," says the Lord, "and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

2 Cor. 6:14-17

The Beast System's Church and State are the "unclean things." Christ's Body – the Ecclesian Family – will not be found there. Don't look there for it. The answer is elsewhere, waiting for those who can mentally escape the Beast System's hold on their thinking. When we COME OUT of Man's reign we have a better chance of seeing Christ's Reign.

Jesus is the Head of the Christian home. He is also the Head of the extended Christian tribe: the Ecclesia. Christ is tribal King. The Ecclesia is the tribe; the clan.

Participation is voluntary.

Ecclesia works on the principle of heritage and loyalty, not central rule and enforcement. It works like family! No rulers. No lawmakers. The Ten Commandments is our constitution, and Bible law shapes our society – the only system that does not violate God's principles of family.

*16. Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your God has commanded you; that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you, in the land which Yahweh your God gives you.*

Deuteronomy 5:16

This commandment has far-reaching implications and a promise extending beyond the simple admonishment for children to honor their parents. Honoring family is the basis for God's system, the Ecclesia, as the commandment goes on to explain. Honor for parents means honor for family. Honor for family is honor for the Patriarchal society – the Ecclesia. Honor for the Ecclesia, and upholding those principles, holds the promise of securing, bettering, and prolonging our tenure in the land Yahweh gives us.

In Babylon, families were NOT sacred. Children were given over to the State ... often as temple slaves. Marriage and family were unimportant. Thus, today we see the Babylonian model around us. The family model is under attack. To that extent, freedom is also under attack.

The principle of freedom is not taught in the schools or churches in America today. By the same token, the family principle is absent in the hearts of the people.

Hard times are upon us because we've abandoned the family (Christian) model of society. We need to restore the family model if we are to gain back our Christian society.

When our way of life is threatened it is sensible to develop our defenses. To ignore our defense is irresponsible. To allow ourselves to be defenseless, helpless is irresponsible if not cowardly. But, this is what most Ameri-

cans have been doing: selling their souls for a false promise of peace.

But, what are we to do today? We are faced with an evil machine: a system, against which we are like ants before a steamroller. What defense can we mount against such a machine? And, how are we to stand before the Beast System?

Are we defenseless against the beast? If so, we have no choice but to continue cowering behind the bushes and trying to remain unnoticed.

Americans have tried to vote themselves freedom. That didn't work. Once men are seated in positions of power they become devils.

Patriots have pursued freedom in the courts. That didn't work. The courts are part of the conspiracy.

Churchgoers have tried appealing to politicians. That didn't work. Churches are incapable of speaking against government in any way that is effective ... because churches are creatures of the state.

Tax protest groups have tried to bring government under control. That didn't work because they relied upon the Constitution and found themselves neutralized and hogtied by the courts.

Some people have even tried forming militias. That doesn't work either. Militias, like the tax protest groups, hamstring themselves by relying upon the Constitution – the very charter that empowers the enemy.

It seems that Americans are willing to try everything ... everything except the one thing that will work: **ECCLESIA ORIENTED SOCIETY!**

When God gave Israel their own land and laws, what form of society did He give them? **FAMILY!** He set them up as tribes ... and He forbade monopolies and central rulers.

Later, when Israel threw away her freedom, what form of society were they seeking? They were seeking the forms of government they saw in the **OTHER NATIONS** – namely, tyrants and central-ruling society.

*7. And Yahweh said to Samuel, Harken to the voice of the people in all that they say to you: for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected ME, that I should not reign over them.*

I Samuel 8:7

*19. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king (i.e., central ruler) over us;*

*20. That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us and fight our battles.*

I Samuel 8:19–20

Sadly, Israel fell for the Beast System's lie: the promise to protect them and fight their enemies for them. They didn't realize they were taking the viper into their home. Things have not been the same since.

People ask, "What do you mean by Ecclesian society?" I tell them, Patriarchal tribal society.

They usually can't see how it can work since all they've known has been police enforcing manmade laws. They usually think that God's form of government is some sort of central rule with an iron fist.

In essence, this mentality tries to incorporate God's system into the Babylonian model.

This problem is the result of Babylonian thinking. That malignant spirit has ruined the minds of our people. They cling, unwittingly, to the Babylonian principle of making their own laws. Of course, their rules change depending upon who you ask. Without God's laws men make their own rules ... and there is never a consensus of what is "right" among them. Yet each one claims that God agrees with their ideas of "right."

Babylonian-oriented people don't understand that **LIBERTY** does NOT authorize anyone to legislate laws and enslave others.

God is the Lawgiver. Man is not. When men make law it is tyranny.

Also, with God's law people aren't judged before they commit a crime. Crime is when someone is damaged ... and that is not punishable until after the act has occurred and someone has been damaged. God's law tells us what we CANNOT do. But tyrants impose positive law that tells us what we MUST do.

God's law is enforceable only upon those who have broken it – not upon those whom we fear may break it in the future. That is thought crime. God's law punishes the sin after it oc-

cors. Attempting to impose restrictions to prevent or punish a sin before it occurs is tyranny and loss of freedom. That is the Babylonian method and America has adopted it. That is why we now have laws by the thousands punishing people who have hurt no one. For crime to exist someone has to have been damaged.

Government demands we wear seat belts, buy insurance, pay taxes, register our guns and our children, ... ad infinitum. If we don't perform according to government requirements we are called lawbreakers ... even though we've hurt no one.

A huge central government is required to keep it all going. (*For further study into this American phenomenon see Jan-Feb 1992 issue of TAC: VICTIM-LESS CRIME*)

Politicians and bankers have learned that plunder is easier and more profitable than labor.

When do they stop plundering? They stop when plunder becomes more painful and more dangerous than labor.

## PROTECTION RACKET

*"But, I own property. Who could I call on to protect me against damage? Who would enforce the law if there were no central government?"*

That is a common question. But, before I answer it, I always ask: do you trust central government to protect you from damage? Think about it. What entity causes you more damage than any other? List your current liabilities, and ask yourself who is doing it to you. Who plunders you, taxes you, forces you to pay for permits, licenses, steals your lands through the Endangered Species Act, Wetland laws, confiscation laws, "Eminent Domain" laws, etc.? What entity confiscates your guns and prevents you from protecting yourself and your property, and yet sends our sons and daughters to die in foreign wars? Do you feel warm and secure about central government being your protector?

You see, the original question is off point or insincere. Declaring that you cannot trust your neighbor implies that you can trust the government. This kind of thinking evidences either insincerity or ignorance.

The answer is this: Central Gov-

ernment does NOT protect us and our property. Quite the opposite.

The government's professional thugs and bureaucrats (i.e., government-owned courts and police) have no interest in protecting us.

*"But, how can we trust ourselves to enforce the law correctly?" "What if my neighbor wants to enforce a bad law upon me?"*

Again, look at the insincerity of that question. The person asking this question insinuates that we can trust central government's thugs and bureaucrats do things right. This argument looks for tiny weakness in one side and completely ignores the tremendous weaknesses in the other side. A neighbor's mistakes are miniscule compared to central government's mistakes.

Whoever makes this argument needs to explain what he thinks central governments are good for. Who do they benefit?

But, to answer the original question, God's law is enforced in this way: a man who has a complaint against another can have his issue addressed in a godly hearing before elders of the ecclesia. The elders hear the issue and give their judgment. Both sides are bound by that decision. Then the aggrieved party (not police) has the right to enforce the judgment upon the convicted party. If the convicted party rebels against the judgment of the elders he becomes an "outlaw" ... which means he forfeits his access to future protection of the law. He loses his standing as a citizen until he repents and abides by the verdict.

Yes, there are GOOD answers to all these questions of how an Ecclesian society functions. The answers are not that difficult. The difficult part is getting people to be honest with themselves, and terminate their love affair with Babylon! As in the days of old, when the Children of Israel carried their Egyptian ways with them when God freed them from slavery, so Americans today find it difficult to abandon their Babylonian ways. The Children of Israel complained 40 years under judgment and hardship in the wilderness. It has been over 40 years for us in America.

Likewise, Gideon was prevented from making any progress in procuring freedom for his people until AF-

TER he denounced and abandoned the pagan altars of his fathers.

In order for us to enjoy the Ecclesian Way, we must terminate our love affair with Babylon. We must throw down the pagan altars of our fathers. Like the prodigal son, we must abandon the pig sty and return to our Father's house.

So, how do we begin the process of turning to Christ and away from the Beast System? By strengthening families and tribal society. By supporting others who share these values. By looking to Christ for leadership. By changing our ways of thinking. By learning the principles of ECCLESIA. Stop loving church and state.

Sadly, most people seem to become interested in doing what is right ONLY AFTER they've tried everything wrong. By that time they are financially destitute and spiritually burned out. As long as their money holds out they don't feel the need to change their ways. They won't step out of their paradigm until AFTER it ruins them. Then all they want to do is nurse their regrets. Like the prodigal son, they no longer possess their inheritance. They threw it away.

Would to God that men could begin seeing the need to repent BEFORE ruin and failure ... before they've lost all to the Beast. What a blessing it would be to practice true ecclesian stewardship before they've squandered the gifts God gave them.

Ecclesian families could be found all over this land. Look at what has happened with the Home School movement. In a matter of less than 10 years it went from nothing to a movement that is so big even the government cannot suppress it today. The Ecclesian tribal movement can grow in the same way. But for this to happen people need the family/tribe principle in their hearts.

By strengthening the family, and the extended Christian family (the Christian Ecclesia), we enter the gates of New Jerusalem and enjoy the blessings of the Ecclesian Way.

Think on this. Pray about it. Let us work together, laying stone upon stone, truth upon truth. Freedom comes from truth!

Americans need to rediscover their spiritual map to the land of promise.



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# GOVERNMENT IS AN UNNECESSARY EVIL

Human beings, when accustomed to taking responsibility for their own behavior, can cooperate on a basis of mutual trust and helpfulness.

## No True Reform is Possible that Leaves Government Intact

Appeals to a government for redress of grievances, even when acted upon, only increase the supposed legitimacy of the government's acts, and add therefore to its amassed power.

## Government Will Be Abolished When Its Subjects Cease to Grant It Legitimacy

Government cannot exist without the tacit consent of the populace. This consent is maintained by keeping the people in ignorance of their real power. Voting is not an expression of power, but an admission of powerlessness, since it cannot do otherwise than reaffirm

the government's supposed legitimacy.

## Every Person Must Have the Right to Make All Decisions about His or Her Own Life – and Take Responsibility for Those Decisions.

All moralistic meddling in the private affairs of freely-acting people is unjustified. Behavior which does not affect uninvolved parties is nobody's business but the participants'.

## We Are Not Bound by Constitutions or Agreements Made by Our Ancestors

Any constitution, contract, or agreement that purports to bind unborn generations – or in fact anyone other than the actual parties to it – is a despicable falsehood and a presumptuous fraud. We are free agents liable only for such as we

ourselves undertake.

All governments survive on theft and extortion, called taxation. All governments force their decrees on the people, and command obedience under threat of punishment.

The great outrages of history have been committed by governments, while every advancement of thought, every betterment of the human condition, has come about through the practices of voluntary cooperation and individual initiative. The principle of government, which is force, is opposed to the free exercise of our ability to think, act and cooperate.

Government causes great harm; does not protect people from crime, but institutionalizes slavery, censorship and war. All governments constantly enlarge upon and extend their powers, at the cost of FREEDOM.

— Fred Woodworth (ethical anarchist)

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## LEVIATHAN AND NATURAL LAW

**Some man or group in every form of state has sovereign power to kill and confiscate.**

But the power that made the Constitution yesterday, can unmake it tomorrow. I am not referring to the ever present possibility of revolution, but to the process of amendment.

Suppose a resolution to be introduced in Congress proposing a constitutional amendment empowering the President to proceed by information against political offenders, and to try and sentence

them in the exercise of his sole discretion. Suppose this resolution to be carried by the requisite two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. Suppose the proposed amendment to be duly ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the commonwealths. Suppose, finally, a sentence of death to be imposed by the President in strict accordance with the authority conferred upon him. To whom then would the threatened citizen look for protection? The answer must be that he could look nowhere for protection.

The illustration may be objected to on the ground that no such amendment as the one suggested could possibly be adopted. This objection is nothing more than an expression of faith that a sovereign will probably act considerably in the future.

I think there can be no escape from this logic or from the underlying fact that gives rise to it. If you live in a political society at all, some man or group can confiscate your property and forfeit your life.

— F. Lyman Windolph (1889-1978)

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# HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS BE ABOLISHED?

by Leo Tolstoy

**S**lavery results from bad laws. Bad laws are made by governments, and, therefore, people can only be freed from slavery by the abolition of governments.

But how can governments be abolished? All attempts to get rid of governments by violence have hitherto, always and everywhere, resulted only in this: that in place of the deposed governments new ones established themselves, often more cruel than those they replaced. Not to mention past attempts to abolish governments by violence, according to the Socialist theory, the coming abolition of the rule of the capitalists – that is, the communalization of the means of production and the new economic order of society – is also to be carried out by a fresh organization of violence, and will have to be maintained by the same means.

So that attempts to abolish violence by violence neither have in the past nor, evidently, can in the future emancipate people from violence, nor, consequently, from slavery.

It cannot be otherwise. Apart from outbursts of revenge or anger, violence is used only in order to compel some people, against their own will, to do the will of others. But the necessity to do what other people wish against your own will is slavery. And, therefore, as long as any violence, designed to compel some people to do the will of others, exists, there will be slavery.

All the attempts to abolish slavery by violence are like

extinguishing fire with fire, stopping water with water, or filling up one hole by digging another. People must feel that their participation in the criminal activity of governments, whether by giving part of their work in the form of money, or by direct participation in military service, is not, as is generally supposed, an indifferent action, but, besides being harmful to one's self and to one's brothers, is a participation in the crimes unceasingly committed by all governments and a preparation for new crimes, which governments are always preparing by maintaining disciplined armies.

**It is time for people to understand that governments not only are not necessary, but are harmful and most highly immoral institutions**

The age for the veneration for governments, notwithstanding all the hypnotic influence they employ to maintain their position, is more and more passing away. And it is time for people to understand that governments not only are not necessary, but are harmful and most highly immoral institutions, in which a self-respecting, honest man cannot and must not take part, and the advantages of which he cannot and should not enjoy. And as soon as people clearly understand that, they will naturally cease to take part in such deeds – that is, cease to give the

governments soldiers and money. And as soon as a majority of people ceases to do this the fraud which enslaves people will be abolished.

Only in this way can people be freed from slavery. And in order not to do the evil which produces misery for himself and for his brothers, he should, first of all, neither willingly nor under compulsion take any part in governmental activity, and should, therefore, be neither a soldier, nor a field-marshal, nor a minister of state, nor a tax collector, nor a witness, nor an alderman, nor a jurymen, nor a governor, nor a member of Parliament, nor, in fact, hold any office connected with violence. That is one thing. Secondly, such a man should not voluntarily pay taxes to governments, either directly or indirectly; nor should he accept money collected by taxes, either as salary, or as pension, or as a reward; nor should he make use of governmental institutions, supported by taxes collected by violence from the people. That is the second thing.

Thirdly, a man who desires to promote his own well-being, as well as the position of people in general, should not appeal to governmental violence for the protection of his own possessions in land or in other things, nor to defend him and his near ones: but should only possess land and all products of his own or other people's toil insofar as others do not claim them from him.