THOU SHALL NOT KILL

Our Lord Jesus Christ warned us: Christians, in advance of the challenges and possibilities of attacks that we will be confronted with when He said:

\*"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves".\*

Matthew 10:16.

My heartfelt condolences go to the people of Plateau State Nigeria, for the brutal killings the communities have experienced in the hands of suspected herdsmen in recent times.

May the Almighty God comfort and console the affected families and the entire State in general.🙏🏼

The pictures and video of the atrocities and incessant killings in Plateau State are very disturbing and beyond human reasoning.

Many people were slaughtered like cows at the abattoir and some burnt beyond human recognition with

Properties, bikes and vehicles being destroyed in the process.

The essence of this message is firstly to show empathy and commiserate with the people affected and also to shed light on the biblical injunctions as it relates to shedding of innocent blood and retaliation.

The bible says:

 \*"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, ....".\*

Prov 6:16-19.

Apparently, Nothing can ever justify the shedding of innocent blood before God.

The obligation rest on everyone to condemn in strong terms, the incessant killing going on in the country, however as believers we must be very careful not to say or do things that will ignite retaliation.

 \*The fact that these killings are being seen by many as a war against the Christians, calls for serious caution. \*

The situation is obviously overwhelming for the security operatives to the extent that the evil perpetrators seemed to be unhindered in committing their evil deeds.

Naturally, it could be tempting for the people affected to resolve to self defence.

However, the biblical commandment: " \*thou shall not kill"\* does not in anyway provides exceptions to when killing is permitted.

Our Lord Jesus Christ berated Simon Peter, when he used sword against the people that arrested Jesus:

 \*"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword".\*

Matthew 26:52.

At this critical time, the onus is on our religious and political leaders to condemn and voice out their concerns about the spate of the killings.

However, in voicing out their concerns, our Christian leaders should avoid remarks that could be interpreted as a clarion call on Christians to fight back and retaliate.

The bible does not encourage Christians to engage in acts of retaliation. \*Romans 12:17-19.\*

Consequently,

 \*Statements that are tantamount to inciting people to start engaging in reprisal actions that will escalate the already tensed situation should be avoided.\*

I am not sure any Christian leader is ready to spearhead a retaliation fight by using axe, guns or sword at the battle front.

 \*As believers, we are trained to fight our battles on our knees in prayer.\*

There were no records of any kind of retaliation on the part of the disciples when they faced persecution and killing.

We should continue to call on our Government to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of these killings and more Importantly, to beef up security in all the affected parts of our Nation.

The bible says:

 \*"Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful".\*

Rev 13:10.

In conclusion, Jesus said:

 \*"If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave".\*

Natthew 10:14.

 \*PRAYER\*

For everyone facing attacks of any sort, the God of vengeance will avenge for you in Jesus name.🙏🏼

Refrain from retaliation but leave the area if it is unsafe or unbearable as Jesus said.

Shalom.

\*JESUS Reigns\*

www.soulsforgod.com

Signed, Bro Cole