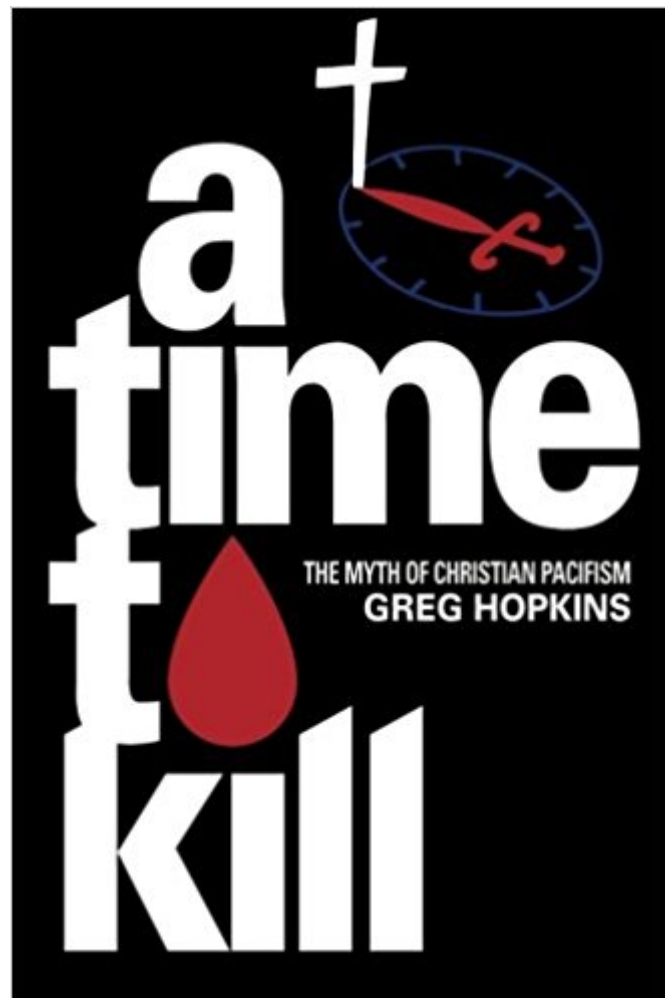




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# A Time To Kill: The Myth Of Christian Pacifism



## Synopsis

This book is about decisions. Not the everyday kind such as "What should I wear today?" or "Where shall we eat tonight?" but decisions that deal with life, death, and protecting the innocent. Self defense is not only about individual survival; self defense can also decide the fate of a nation and all its citizens. "A Time to Kill: The Myth of Christian Pacifism" answers questions such as: Do federal, state, and local laws allow citizens to defend themselves against criminal attack? What means are available for self defense? What strategies should one use to avoid potential conflict. Can Christians defend themselves against Islamic extremists? Is pacifism in the Bible? Do the Gospels say Jesus was a pacifist? What if God commands us to use deadly force to defend the innocent? How do Jesus and the New Testament writers feel about the military? What does the Bible say about the death penalty? Can Christians sit on juries and vote for the death penalty? Can Jesus' teachings help soldiers with combat-induced PTSD? Does the Bible have a consistent message about self-defense from the Old Testament to the New? •

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Greg Hopkins received his first firearms training as an auxiliary police officer in his hometown of Waverly, Ohio, where he served on the city council. He earned his law degree at The Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama, and served there as a City Magistrate. After graduation, he clerked at the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and was admitted to the bar in 1989. Greg served as City Prosecutor for Huntsville, Alabama, and he trained the Huntsville Police Department in legal

use-of-force. He received training for police advisors at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and completed Level One of Massad Ayoob's Lethal Force Institute in Pearl, Mississippi. After leaving the City Attorney's office, he practiced criminal defense law, served as a City Court Judge, and became a court-certified expert witness in firearms and self-defense law. Greg regularly consults on self-defense and firearms cases to analyze and reconstruct crime scenes. He is a nationally certified instructor in Use-of-Force and Pepper Spray by the National Criminal Justice Training Council of Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. He is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and has been a certified NRA Pistol Safety and Personal Protection Instructor since 1991. Greg has trained police and civilians in use-of-force law for 21 years. He teaches legal seminars on self-defense law, effects of violence on witnesses, and effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He has taught Bible classes to adults since he was 18.

The title of this book is based on the Book of Ecclesiastes which says that 'there is a time for everything' / I wish it was just entitled 'The Myth of Christian Pacifism' because then the title might not have scared some people away. That being said this is a great book and uses Scripture to show that God agrees with Self-Protection because He authorized Self Defense. Jesus taught in 'non-fatal encounters' to "turn the other cheek" and added, "as much as possible be at peace with all men." On earth He protected his disciples. (John 17:11-12). But as he prepared to leave this world he commanded, in Luke 22:36, "he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one". In Exodus 20:13 the Bible instructs that, "Thou shalt not kill". God hates murder. and He hates criminal acts. But He clearly differentiates between murder and lethal self-defence. In Exodus 22:2 we are instructed that, "If the thief is found breaking in during the night, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed". The Psalmist, attributed his ability to defend himself to God's assistance. He said in Psalms 144:1, "Blessed be Jehovah my rock, who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight." If you are a Christian or even if you are not - I recommend this Book. You need to resolve what you believe before a violent encounter happens. Author Hopkins has been a Prosecutor, Police Officer and Judge and a Christian. He is well qualified to write this book and has done a great job. I recommend this book. It is a sane, realistic and accurate book. I also recommend getting 'More Guns, Less Crime' by Professor John Lott. No criminal wants to rob or rape an armed citizen. Now all 50 States have passed a Concealed Carry Handgun Bill for law-abiding vetted and qualified responsible citizens and the States has not turned into a wild west show. We have a God-given responsibility to protect ourself, our family and our neighbour and these books verify that. Get em', you'll be glad you did

Convincing argument that self-defense is not contrary to the Bible. The quarrel I have is his assertion that a Christian must render first aid (without qualification) and should visit the surviving criminal in the hospital, jail, or prison. (Pages 84-87, 155) There are only a few places on the human body which, when shot, kills someone instantly. The rest may well eventually result in death, but a determined criminal can do a lot of damage to someone who makes the mistake to approach and bring himself within range of another possible attack before the arrival of the police and an ambulance, i.e. I do not agree that he is "under control" simply because you have wounded him. Does he have another weapon, knife, or the like, or just physically strong enough to get the better of the situation? Likewise, a CCW holder should be taught that even though he may get shot, he should keep fighting, since with modern medical science, most bullet wounds are survivable, if he does not get hit in one of the instant kill points. As possibly the sole witness to his criminal assault, prior to conviction, it is not a good idea to visit the person who you are trying to put in the penitentiary for an extended time. Likely at his hospital room will be his family and friends, of similar ilk; if he is a gang member, fellow gang members. Until convicted, he is far from "under control" (and maybe not even then,) when the only thing that stands between freedom and conviction and a long sentence, is you as a witness. Witnesses have been known to disappear, be killed, be intimidated, or bought off. The examples of criminals like Ted Bundy who got religion right before they were executed, are not good examples, because at that point the jig is truly up and they are actually "under control." You are also possibly creating a reasonable doubt situation as to what actually happened, for instance if he and his family and friends testify that you apologized at the hospital for wrongfully shooting him, his attorney argues a "consciousness of guilt" on your part for the visit, etc. Let him get convicted, then, if you really must, visit him in the penitentiary or on probation. Remember, this is a Sociopath or possibly a Psychopath that you are dealing with, not a normal, rational human being. His family, and criminal friends have reason to see that you, as a witness, do not testify and help convict their angel, or are discredited. In his world, getting shot is a badge of honor on the street, not usually any revelation to get on the straight and narrow. The less the criminal and his friends and family know about you the better. You are probably in as much danger after the shooting with certain criminals as you were at the time of the self-defense shooting, simply as a witness, and particularly as the sole witness. Some wounds would make it possible to safely render first aid before the ambulance arrives, but definitely not all. Finally, the fact that a Civil Suit is possible, if not likely, should be considered. Any contact allows for false testimony as to what was said in the way of admissions on your part that may allow the criminal to become the "victim," that costs you a ton of money in

defense costs, attorney's fees, and even a wrongful Judgment. It is unlikely there will be a video that shows, without a doubt, that your shooting of the criminal was justified, creating possible jury questions, i.e. don't muck up the criminal case or create a false civil case by trying too quickly to save the soul of the guy who was trying to kill you or cause you great bodily harm. There should be time for that after conviction.

I am going to put this book in the suggested reading list for my students. It is very well researched and very understandable. It primarily deals with the moral and ethical aspects of using deadly force for self defense. He does cover laws and such but the moral and ethical aspects were very well covered. Highly recommended.

Excellent book. Two problems I have with it. I do not think you are REQUIRED to give first aid to those you've successfully defended yourself from. Secondly, I do not think you have to visit your attacked in the hospital if they survive. Otherwise, this is an excellent book and provides much food for thought.

I am a firearms instructor and a Christian and this is the best book available (other than the Bible) to let the Christian know how they should stand on self defense. Somewhere along the line Christians have mis-understood their charge for self defense that comes out of the Bible. Greg has done a great job in presenting the need to know and understand God's Law along with Alabama Law and Federal law. Christians need this book.

Very interesting and informative. Has a lot of scripture to explain his reasons for making the decisions about when to take action. Excellent book- highly recommend.

I found the Scriptural references helpful in connection with the subject of self-defense and capital punishment. Very insightful. God's Word has spoken pretty decisively, even though, with this subject and others in Scripture, there is a "tension" that could appear contradictory. The author takes liberties with some of his interpretations that go a little too far, but all in all, I found the support for self-defense interesting, going beyond what the majority of Christians know about the subject. Mostly helpful.

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