

DEVOTION

SELAH: (SE LAH) N. PAUSE THINK ON THIS

What sorrow awaits the unjust judges and those who issue unfair laws. They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and take advantage of orphans.

—Isaiah 10:1-2 NLT



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Many are familiar with our nations' "First Amendment," that part of the United States Bill of Rights adopted in 1791 that prohibits a number of things, including ones free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the limitation of the right to peaceably assemble and the limitation of the right to petition.

These are just some of many laws the government makes and empowers certain people to enforce. They are laws that state what is and are not permissible, and what rights and freedom you have. They help eliminate confusion, establish order and provide protection for your good.

Knowing your rights as an American citizen prompts you to boldly declare what is yours and to take legal steps when those rights are violated.

The same is true for you as a citizen in God's Kingdom, your legal residence since the day you became a Christian (Colossians 1:13). The Bible declares your citizenship and your God-given rights, and you have the right to boldly go to the One who judges with truth and who will avenge you.

The Word of God will defend you.

When your rights have been violated or when you have been mistreated in any way, do not take matters into your own hands. Instead, look to the one who is Advocate for the Church—the Almighty One who is wise and powerful. Trust Him to plead your case, defend your cause and enforce your rights. He has never lost a case!

By Edna Jordan