

I bet a lot of people are asking: "Why should I pay for a handgun or shotgun for home defense when I have my deer rifle?". Well, let's see. Please remember: when your life or the lives of those you love are on the line you better have picked the tool you need for the job since it will be too late to change your choice. First let's consider power. A square hit with any hunting rifle that's legal for deer or elk will stop a human fight. Shotguns and most handguns are designed for short range and so are suitable for self defense. Hunting rifles and very powerful handguns over penetrate, going straight through the bad guy hitting innocents down range...maybe across the valley. If you must use a rifle, pick one of modest power with hunting ammo to reduce over penetration.

**Safety and handling.** Handguns can be safely and conveniently stored right where needed in a handy little gun safe. But, there is nothing like that on the market for a loaded rifle or shotgun. So, if kids are ever in the house a rifle must be either unloaded with ammo stored separately or have a gun lock, so you won't be able to use it quickly as needed. Or, you must decide if it is safe to keep it in ready condition but high up where you can get at it but kids can't. If your rifle's safety blocks the action from chambering a round then it might help to keep the weapon unchambered and the safety on. However, not all rifles do this. Also a safety that locks the action might slow you down too much or confuse you while you are under stress. Most hunting rifles are heavy, long, and slow to point. Many have a telescopic sight that makes them absolutely useless at very short distances you will need to defend yourself in. Bolt action rifles are very slow. So, consider a short carbine with open metallic sights that you can point and fire quickly in close quarters and that cannot be easily slapped or grabbed away. Semi-auto's like the SKS or the Ruger Mini-14, AK-47 clones and so-called "camp rifles" are short (18 inch barrels) and fast. So is the lever action .30-30 Winchester. And, over penetration is slightly less of a problem than with more powerful rifles. Surplus SKS carbines in 7.62mmX39mm are probably the cheapest way to go at about \$150.00 new (cheaper, used). Their sights are poor, but still much better than telescopic sights. They are about as safe and reliable as any semi-auto if you know how to handle them and care for them. Their hunting ammo is close to the old .30-30 Winchester in power, velocity, and expansion. **Caution:** a semi-automatic carbine with a high rate of fire and a box magazine with many rounds might tempt you to "Spray and pray" when you are scared. **YOU SHOULD NEVER SHOOT UNLESS YOU REALLY HAVE TO, AND IF YOU REALLY HAVE TO SHOOT, YOU MUST MAKE AT LEAST ONE SOLID HIT IN THE FIRST OR THE SECOND SHOT.** Failing this, no amount of lead your gun can squirt will save you. Carbines are serious shoulder weapons, not hip weapons, not toys. You must practice quick and accurate shot placement from the shoulder. Rapid fire without immediate solid hits risks hitting innocents and is suicidal for you.

**Summarizing pistols, rifles and shotguns.** We all have lives to lead and business to conduct. Neither shotguns nor rifles nor carbines can be easily carried around and so you are not likely to have one handy once you step out of your house and as we have seen, they might not even be very handy in your home. They also cannot double as concealed carry weapons. So, for much of your day you will be defensively naked. If you know you are about to be attacked, by all means have your shotgun or carbine at the ready and if there is time, dial 911. But since criminals pick the time, place and manner of attack without warning, please get something that you can keep with you at all times, like a nice new GLOCK model 32, a good old Model 1911 Colt .45, or a suitable revolver. At home, they can rest safely in the dandy little gun safe and then slip into pocket or holster when you step outside. Two things we all know: 1.) The time for these decisions is now; it's too late once a fight starts; and, 2.) any weapon that is inconvenient to use or to carry, or that is unsafe to keep loaded and ready will not be at hand when it's needed.

Next time, let's talk about the much more difficult problem of personal rather than home defense.

## Butte Falls Assembly of God

509 Broad St.

"Come On In And Join Us"

Our Service Times Are:

Sunday Morning - 10:00am

Sunday Evening Bible Study - 6:00pm

"Book of Revelation"

Sunday Evening Youth - 6:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 19th

Breakfast & Services planned for 10:00am

In the City Park

### Blake Clerical Services

Data Entry, Proofreading, Professional

Letter and Documentation Prep

Contact: Myra Blake at 865-3400

Butte Falls, OR.

## Annual Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 7th at 2 PM

Butte Falls Community Bible Church

Tea time treats, door prizes and lots of fun.

-RSVP by May 1st Please-

Cory 865-3310 or JoAnn 865-3506

Looking forward to seeing you!

AGES- 5th grade and up

