

## Enemies & Friends

“... a day which will live in infamy!” Those were the words of President Roosevelt after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. World War II was already in full swing in Europe and Asia... nations invaded, governments toppled, and hundreds of thousands in early graves. Then, suddenly, America is dragged into the conflict which we so stringently tried to avoid.

What a tragedy. What a heartache. The “dogs of war” had been unleashed and the outcome, at first, was uncertain. The Axis nation fought the Allied nations. Former friends were now bitter enemies. Peoples once indifferent now fought with vengeance and even hate.

Yet today, former enemies are now friends. Former combatants are now allies. What changed? People. The land mass did not change. Our latitudes are still the same. The natural resources remain static. But old rifts are healed... wide chasms are bridged.

It has been said that “time heals all wounds”... often, but not always true. In the case of relationships, loving hearts use time to heal one another. Time could actually multiply hate if that hate is birthed in bitterness and nursed by revenge. Hate can grow into adulthood if time is not used wisely to heal rather than hurt.

Today Germany, Japan and Italy are all our allies. The relationship is not always perfect, but the strength of the bond is stable and secure. Beneficial trade, free markets and mutual commitment to freedom bond us solidly. Former enemies are now strong allies, former foes now reconciled in international relationship. The treaties were signed and peace prevails!

The same is true in our relationship with God:

“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life,” Romans 5:10 NASB.

We were enemies but now we are friends (John 15:14-15.) Our sinfulness warred against our Lord, but now we find “the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension” (Philippians 4:7).

On December 7, we honor the blood shed by our soldiers and sailors at Pearl Harbor. Every day we honor the blood shed by Jesus to reconcile us to God. Even in the midst of Middle East conflict, we rejoice in peace with our allies and peace with our Lord (Romans 5:11).

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