

Remembering Those Who Fought

In every free society, there have been “freedom fighters” who fought and died to procure and protect that freedom. Monday, this nation shows its appreciation to our fallen heroes as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Because of them, we enjoy the freedoms of a representative republic, freedom to vote, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and many others, because some gave all.

As Christians, we, too, have freedoms. Jesus was concerned about our spiritual freedom from sin and procured by His blood our forgiveness. We show Him our love by following His truth (John 14:15). We remember John 8:32, “and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ”

To maintain that spiritual freedom we must follow the pattern (standard) delivered to us in scripture (Philippians 3:17; 2 Timothy 1:13). As my own father fought in WWII to keep us free, we must fight spiritual battles to do the same.

As we seek to follow God’s plan, we must remember that His pattern includes both doctrinal and practical matters. One of the practical processes often forgotten is that we remember those who have labored diligently among us. Consider the following verses:

1 Thess. 5:12 “But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction.”

Heb. 13:7 “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

In the same way our nation remembers its heroes who fought for freedom, we should remember those who have led us spiritually and on whose shoulders we stand. This weekend, get the family together to plan how you might honor those to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7). Take an older leader to dinner. Invite the widow of former elder or deacon to celebrate Memorial Day with your family. Whatever you do, remember our soldiers and the soldiers of Christ.

Children will emulate what they see honored... they mimic what they see applauded. As they see mom and dad give honor to those remembered for their spiritual service to God’s kingdom, they begin to understand the importance of leadership in God’s kingdom. Then, as we actually practice Hebrews 13:7, we can further God’s plan for this and the next generation to “imitate their faith”!

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Further study: Hebrews 11 God’s “Hall of Heroes.”