

**VETERANS DESERVE BETTER**

On Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, our nation observed Veteran's Day. It is a great and honorable deed to celebrate the service of the men and women of the United States Military, both past and present. This past Veteran's Day, after being thanked for his service, a veteran responded, "Being a veteran of the Vietnam War, we get thanked a lot more now than we did right after we came home." Though much is done today to ensure that veterans are given honor, they still deserve better. Our veterans fought and shed their blood that we might enjoy the freedoms with which we are so deeply blessed. Yet many choose to abuse those blessings and dishonor the service of our veterans. Many a brave soldier fought and died under the banner of the United States flag to ensure that our citizens could delight in having freedom of speech. In turn, rather than remembering the great sacrifices that are represented by the American flag, it is burned, mocked, and spit upon under the guise of "freedom of speech." The work that our men and women in uniform are performing is still being demeaned by many today. In just the recent past, high ranking politicians have accused our troops of "just air-raiding villages and killing civilians." Our veterans deserve better.

Faithful veterans of the Lord's army deserve better as well. Many faithful Christians who gave their all to the Cause of Christ have passed from the physical life and into eternity. Though we do not serve any of these individuals, serve because of any of these individuals, or serve any doctrine originating with these individuals, their labor should not be left to dishonor. Many faithful Christians stood tall, in the midst of persecution, criticism, and alienation, in order to keep and leave behind faithful congregations for generations to follow. Their service is being disgraced by a generation without respect for Bible authority who seek to be more like the denominations round about them rather than seek to follow the pattern taught to them by those faithful veterans of the past (1 Sam. 8:5). The hard work of preserving the unique, God-ordained identity of the Church has been laid to waste by "progressive-thinking" liberals who are more interested in entertainment than true worship (John 4:24). Schools, which were started by faithful stalwarts of the truth, have long ago been hijacked by the denominational world or by apostates seeking money, power, and prestige. In many cases, these institutions promote themselves by invoking the names of their faithful forefathers who, if they were alive today, would "have no fellowship" with these "unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11). Our veterans and our Lord deserves better.

Our loyalties belong to Christ (1 Cor. 3:23). Those who gave themselves to Christ before passing from this life, left behind a blessing for us. We can honor their labor by simply honoring God's Word and submit ourselves to Him in humble obedience (Jam. 4:7). We should desire that the next generation be blessed by our labors as we have been by those who have gone on before us. Sadly, in many areas and many instances, the next generation will be left with a hollow shell of what the true Church of Christ is required to be by God. Let us do our part (1 Cor. 12:12-26) to be faithful volunteers in the Lord's army and ensure that the beautiful bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9) is kept pure.

- *Brad Green*