

## FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

It was Memorial Day, 2020, and a major network was showing a mother and her young son walking in a National cemetery looking for the grave of the father of this young family. The identical military headstones stretched for miles. Mom and son found Dad's marker, stood solemnly looking for a moment before the little boy threw both arms completely around the marker as if he were hugging his daddy. No freedom isn't free.



Reports show over 4 million military gravesites in the U.S. alone. Many of our brave, patriotic fighters have been buried at sea and in foreign cemeteries. They gave their lives for our freedom. Let us thank God every day for the freedom we have in this great nation, and pray for it to continue to be free.

- via Disaster Relief Effort News, Nashville, TN (July, 2020) -

### THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS WAS PERSONAL

He gave . . .

- ◆ His head to a crown of thorns.
- ◆ His face to spit and slaps.
- ◆ His shoulders and back to scourging.
- ◆ His side to a spear.
- ◆ His hands and feet to be nailed to a cross, and
- ◆ His body and blood for our sins.

- Phil Sanders, *In Search of the Lord's Way*  
(excerpt from "The Sacrifice" - 8/9/20) -



*True patriotism acknowledges the law of God in national affairs. It is not by accident that our coins tell the world: "In God We Trust."*

*However, "In God We Trust" on our coins means nothing unless ... **IN GOD WE TRUST!***

- Bulletin Digest -

*Freedom is a possession of inestimable value.* - Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

### News & Notes

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:** Until further notice: **Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.** and **Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.** (auditorium class only). **Masks and social distancing required.**

**SYMPATHY:** To Jason Akers & family at the recent passing of his aunt, Amy Cunningham.

**CONFESSION & RESTORATION:** Melidee Richmond.

**REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS:** **Steve Higginbotham**, 3318 October Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931. We pray for Steve and that his cancer treatments will be successful for the best possible outcome. Also remember Steve's wife, Kim and their children.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** Mary Jane Bowers, Kathy Hissam, Leroy Burdine (Willard's brother), Ernie Robinson, Bill Robinson, Skip Haught, Melvin "Pete" Reed, Marlene Evans, Shirley Beagle, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless, Don & Judy Floding. **Cleveland Clinic:** Jim Loy (brother of Twila Adamson) **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl, Regina King, and Benjamin Radford.

### TERRIBLE TIMES

The apostle Paul wrote: "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God -- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them" (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV).

We live in a "religious" nation. Yet, religion often seems to have little impact on lives. It has outward form or expression in words and rituals, but no real substance in terms of changing hearts and lives. Paul's words seem almost prophetic of today.

In many ways, these are terrible times. We have seen a moral decline of monstrous proportions in recent decades. Homosexuality has become normal and acceptable in the eyes of many. Abortion (the murder of the unborn) has destroyed millions of children and continues to do so each year. Euthanasia, the murder of the aged, sickly and deformed is not far off. Kids are being abused and neglected as never before. Crime is everywhere. Drugs and alcohol are destroying lives in record numbers. Gambling is common-place. There is a feeling that Christianity has failed. People are turning to the occult for answers.

But, all is not lost! Americans are beginning to mobilize. There are signs that we may be coming to our senses. By way of illustration, more and more people are getting involved in efforts to non-violently and legally protest the killing of the unborn. The number of those who oppose abortion is on the increase. There are signs that the family is becoming more important. And, although mainline Protestant churches are in decline, groups which are seeking a return to the Bible are taking root in many places. We cannot be silent any longer. The voices for decency and morality must be heard. We must turn the tide, and we will if we are willing to take a stand. The time to begin is now!

- Roger Rush -

- via Sixth & Washington Streets Church of Christ, Marietta, OH -