

“THAT THESE SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN”

The above quotation you will recognize as being from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. This Memorial Day may we be reminded of our heritage and the sacrifices of human blood that have been made to assure freedom for our nation, and for others as well.

If there is anything more tragic than such sacrifices, it would be that such would be in vain. As the heirs of the array of benefits from such sacrifices, what does it say of us if we take these casually, even recklessly putting them at risk? Would we dare make vain such cherished blessings as our right to free speech and freedom to both practice and proclaim our faith by yielding to political correctness? Though we be inappropriately branded as “haters,” “racists,” “homophobes,” “Islamaphobes”, etc., for standing firm on the word of God in a world estranged from God, dare we despise the godly principles for which many have willingly shed their life’s blood?

Every Sunday is a Memorial Day for the Arthur Church of Christ, as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord upon the cross. Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, consisting of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, emblematic of His body and blood, saying, “This do in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25), which the early church did upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Such assemblies of Christians “proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26)—a message declaring He did not die in vain, but that “Christ was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:25).

Jesus made the supreme sacrifice for the redemption of man, having “tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9-20). Sadly, for some, in rejecting His sacrifice, His death has been in vain. How tragic! What greater offense could there be than to despise and reject the grace of God in Christ? To be assured of our standing with God, may all, in faith, be submissive to His will for their lives, openly repenting of sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized (immersed) into Christ (cf. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10; 6:3-4). And may those of us who have so committed our lives to Him “not be of them who draw back unto perdition: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:39). May it never be said that for you He died in vain.

—Ron