

THE SOWER

ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST

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THOUGHTS ON FREEDOM

What price this freedom? What theory do we champion that has such a hold on us? Can the word alone be the guardian of the welfare of mankind? Is Freedom an abstract or is it a reality?

While watching a World War II movie on the 4th of July, our celebration of independence, the gravity of freedom pulled itself into my thoughts. I suddenly realized that July 4th is a celebration of Freedom.

Webster defines freedom as independence, liberty, ease of movement, a right. By definition, freedom is a reality. The everyday things we take for granted are all under the umbrella of the word. We can choose our religion, our life style (within our economic means), our right to speak as we please. We have freedom to choose our leaders and the right to print and read what we choose.

What price this Freedom? The price of human lives. When did we decide this thing called "freedom" was worth dying for? I don't know.. The people who died did not know. Their families did not know at just what time in history it was decided that lives were the ransom to be paid for freedom. But it was decided.

Freedom must stand in its whole; if a single part is missing, it will not endure. The commanders of war understand this theory and the young warriors have the fortitude, strength and endurance to fight the wars. They fight for Freedom, they fight for Country, they fight for Glory, and they fight for the nineteen year old standing beside them facing the enemy.

So our celebration of independence on the 4th of July is also a celebration of our freedom, and a memorial to those who paid the ransom of Freedom for all of us.

—Dwain Smith

THE FOUNDERS of our country wisely sought to protect us from the government through the system of governance that we call our Constitution. Government historically, and by its very nature, eventually seeks unlimited control over the lives of the governed. In Scripture, human governments are frequently symbolically and aptly portrayed as wild, ravenous beasts. The freedoms we enjoy under the Constitution are not to be seen as freedoms graciously granted to us by a benevolent government, but freedoms granted us by a benevolent God. The government's role is not to **give** us freedom, but to **protect** the freedoms God has given us.

We are concerned that leaders who have sworn to uphold the Constitution often seek to nullify these freedoms under the judicial cover of "interpretation." In recent years "interpretations" have opened the door to the denial of the "right to life" for children yet in the womb, and, according to some, even to the newly born. Our freedoms of religion and of speech are becoming increasingly threatened by those who elevate political correctness above both Scripture and our Constitution. We would do well to heed what one sage once stated, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."