

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • www.parkheightscoc.com

Thus Saith the Lord **A VETERAN**

By Jeff Sweeten

I'm a veteran. I served my country in the US Navy ('75-'81, Petty Officer 2nd Class) and, whereas I was never in-country, I received a ribbon for the Viet-Nam "conflict," receiving an honorable discharge with service connected disabilities. And, I love my country. However, I have my doubts about the "leadership" we are currently receiving and have on occasion been, quite possibly, a bit too vocal about it (to the chorus of my close friends' resounding "Amen!"). Regardless, I still maintain the conviction that the United States is the best country on the planet; I'll die on that hill.

As one ages and there are fewer days before than those behind, one is given to retrospective contemplation and memory assessment. It is in times of reflection like these that the sacrifices of the past have become more meaningful than what they were during their making. It is an unfortunate point of concern that so many of our younger generation will not be able to look back on any dedicated service rendered for their country (or much of anything) with the confidence of knowing that their sacrifices for something greater than themselves carried, not just a sense of satisfaction, but a sense of completion and purpose.

This is how old Christians must feel. Paul would sum it up in a letter to his young acolyte, Timothy. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all those who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:7-8). This is not stated as the reminiscence of an old, doddering fossil romanticizing about some long-forgotten history. There was in Paul's message an encouragement, a motivational element, intended to spur young Timothy on to greater service. One cannot enjoy the satisfaction of a sacrifice never made.

The myopic focus on the here-and-now that saturates our culture will be our undoing, both nationally and spiritually. A country made great by its founding fathers, who valued God and His inspired word, has been replace by the nihilism of atheistic hedonists who destroy today and decimate tomorrow. Do not minimize the veteran; do not let that old soldier fade away.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130