



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord

ANVIL SHOOT

By Jeff Sweeten

There is privilege and honor in being a part of ancient tradition, handed down by our elders. The Anvil Shoot was, indeed, one of those events. Having served my country in the USN, I couldn't help but wax nostalgic with memories of my tour of duty ('75-'81), the camaraderie and the occasional urgency that duty required. It was a bit discouraging to see so few young people attended. Perhaps, concepts like sacrifice, freedom and gratitude are losing relevance in our current generation, but that's just my opinion.

I suppose that is why I am very sympathetic toward those whose religious traditions are so intrinsically ingrained that the very thought of abandoning them is anathema. The investment in time, finances and social connections run so deep that a mere challenge to their validity becomes "fightin' words." It would seem all religions have traditions, therefore, the fair question would be: What is their origin?

Armistice Day, the origin of Veterans' Day, certainly has its historical authority and those who have sacrificed for our country's freedoms deserve to be remembered. Here in Hamilton, a local blacksmith (whose name I still don't know), in a single act of celebration, commemorated WWI's ending with a bang. You've just got to admire an independent soul courageous enough to express himself in so honorable a manner. So, one-hundred and five years later, patriotic Americans celebrate those veterans who, throughout the years, have sacrificed to maintain our freedom, obviously, an event to remember.

The traditions of the multifaceted "Christian Faith" have history, too. The question is: What is their origin? I appreciate those traditions that have their roots in great movements, especially those whose purpose was to move from error to truth. Anytime a tide turns toward moving back to the authorized traditions of the Bible, a true Christian will not demur. In fact, a move to the Bible should inspire loyalty, dedication and submission. However, too often, humanly devised traditions – traditions that oppose the Bible – get in the way, and division as diverse as those who originate non-biblical traditions proliferate. Paul would say:

"Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you." 1 Corinthians 11:2

Again, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle." 2 Thessalonians 2:15

These are the traditions we should honor, defend and keep. They originate with Divinely inspired, New Testament writers and possess Divine authority, a far cry from those traditions of men so frequently condemned in Holy Writ (Matthew 15:3, 6; Mark 7:8-9) In fact, we should make no apology for their defense when clear Revelation is so easily understood. I would encourage you to heed the Divine warning:

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." Colossians 2:8

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

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

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:
www.parkheightscoc.com