



Jeff Sweeten

*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

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## **ISOLATIONISM**

By Jeff Sweeten

One of the most horrendous wars ever fought was “The Great War.” It was called that because of its scope and scale (and of course, because World War II hadn’t happened yet). Trench warfare became a graveyard for freezing, gassed masses of men who could advance their lines no further than the rapid succession of new war inventions would allow. It was a dirty war, leaving a lost generation of disillusioned, mind-scared casualties who would never view war the same again. War is not literally Hell (for those who understand the Bible), but it was certainly its near kin. There was no middle ground, no refuge from the trenches.

Because of the horrors of WWI, many in America would advocate ISOLATIONISM when the despot Hitler began to centralize his political power base and, in fact, this policy kept us out of WWII for a long time. Yet, had America not entered WWII, the global situation would have been very ugly indeed. Most historians believe America would not have been able to stave off a “Hitlerized” Europe. It was not the preference but we had to fight.

There is a similar war that is waged daily by soul’s destined for eternity. On one side of the battleground are the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), a list of the worst, most repugnant conduct known to humanity, the manifestation of godlessness. On the other side stands the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), “against such there is no law.”

The stark distinction between the two is constantly being challenged and Satan’s most effective attack lies in deceit (John 8:44). The more smoke he can blow to cloud the issue, the more confusing the war arena becomes and the better he likes it. “Let us make peace,” he cries (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11). Let us compromise fellowship, ignore requirements for salvation, live as close to the world as you want; and with slight of hand and euphemism, he leads souls to an everlasting destruction.

This may sound a bit dramatic, until you consider the consequences awaiting the practitioners of these two categories. One group is destined to a devil’s hell where “there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:12); the other group will hear “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). Decidedly different, wouldn’t you say? And, the conclusion to this war has already been determined (1 Corinthians 15:55-57); all that is left are the little battles.

We live in a spiritual demilitarized zone. Equipped with divine weaponry (Ephesians 6:10-18), we do battle with the sword of the Spirit in defense of the Faith. We cannot ride the fence without being a traitor (Matthew 12:30). One thing is certain: ISOLATIONISM IS NOT POSSIBLE. There is no middle ground between the trenches that affords us immunity or neutrality. Choosing not to decide is still a choice (cf. James 4:17).