

## **The Scars of Courage**

Sunday Morning, May 27, 2012

### **Thesis:**

You may have answered the call to fight for our country endeavoring to maintain our freedom rights, but encourage one another to fight for the truth of God's Word, the key to America or any country's freedom.

### **Introduction:**

Memorial Day commemorates our fallen soldiers, a practice begun in 1866.

Keith, my brother, refused nomination for "Purple Heart"  
Quote Passage - Soldier Loss of Arm/Amputee

### **I. "You Have Been True to Country, Be True to Me."**

#### **(Isaiah 53:5)**

But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds.

Christ's Example

#### **Singing Death Testimony**

### **II. Bear the Scars of Courage in Christ**

#### **(Galatians 6:17)**

From now on, let no one cause me trouble, because I bear on my body scars for the cause of Jesus.

For the Cause of Christ

Paul's Scars -

Persecuted in Iconium (Acts 14: 1-5)  
Honored & Stoned in Lystra ( Acts 14: 8-19)  
Beaten in Phillipi (Acts 16:22)  
Shipwrecked in Malta (Acts 27: 42-28:1)  
Imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28: 17-20)  
Finally, By Tradition, Martyred for Christ

### **III. Our Battle: The Fight for "Truth"**

Exalt Truth as an Instrument of God

#### **(Romans 1: 18 – 25)**

18 For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,

19 since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.

21 For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

24 Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves.

25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

Consequence of the Rejection of Truth!

#### **(Romans 1: 16-17)**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

17 For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

Challenged To Live By Faith

**(Psalm 115: 1-8)**

1 Not to us, Yahweh, not to us, but to Your name give glory  
because of Your faithful love, because of Your truth.  
2 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"  
3 Our God is in heaven and does whatever He pleases.  
4 Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands.  
5 They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.  
6 They have ears but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell.  
7 They have hands but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk. They  
cannot make a sound with their throats.  
8 Those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust  
in them.

[The Battle's Enemy!](#)

**Conclusion:**

You may have answered the call to fight for our country  
endeavoring to maintain our freedom rights, but encourage one  
another to fight for the truth of God's Word, the key to America  
or any country's freedom.