**MEMORIAL DAY 2016**

*Pastor Mike Smith, May 29, 2016*

**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

**IWO JIMA**

Expressed as a math equation, to conquer each one of Iwo Jima's eight square miles of volcanic slag, 3,255 American servicemen were killed or wounded.

The Japanese garrison on the island was utterly destroyed with a horrendous casualty rate of nearly 100%. US intelligence estimates placed a best guess at between 20,530 to 21,060 enemy defenders. Taken as a whole, more than 46,000 men died or were wounded during the 36 days of this indescribable battle.

There is no question that Iwo Jima was beyond human comprehension in terms of the slaughter. In fact, although the Japanese were ultimately defeated and the island fell into U.S. hands, more Americans became casualties than did their enemies.

6,327 American soldiers were killed.

19,270 Were wounded.

494 Were missing in action.

In the course of our nation’s history, from the War for Independence through the Islamic War, its freedom has been achieved, defended, and maintained by the sacrifice of millions of young men who have served in the various branches of its armed forces. Those who have died in battle now total **well over 650-thousand**.

The total list of casualties, dead and wounded, exceeds **2-million, 600-thousand**. Today we salute first of all our fallen dead, secondly all those who have answered the call to defend the colors of our client nation, past and present.

Possibly what is most disturbing is thinking about the horrible suffering and sacrifices that have been made to bequeath our precious freedom to us and how foolishly and easily we are allowing it to be taken from us.

Freedom is worth fighting for ! It is worth the sacrifices required to keep it.

The Spiritual Vigor of a Nation and the True Security of a Nation are One in the Same.

Read: ***Nehemiah 4:1-20***

As is always the case, our freedom is under threat but the greatest threat to our freedom is not from foreign countries, but from our own leaders.

Exhibit # 1: The transgender bathroom jihad launched two weeks ago.

***Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil…***

***Isaiah 5:23*** [Woe to those] ***Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!***

Our worst enemy is our own ignorance and apathy.

***Isaiah 5:13 Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge***

Do your children know about Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Battle of the Bulge, Midway, D-Day, Dauchau, Awshwitz, Douglas McAurthor, George Patton?

They are saying that our military is the weakest it has been since WWII in terms of numbers and readiness. Morale is at an all-time low and great military leaders with experience have either resigned or have been forced to retire. It has become a place of social engineering:

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* Open Homosexuals allowed
* Women train and reside with the men
* Epidemic of sexual harassment, rape, and divorce
* Sensitivity training for the men
* Combat for the women
* Any future draft will no doubt include 18 yr. old girls
* Transvestites allowed
* Under UN Command
* Peace Keepers rather than Enemy Killers
* Nation building

*“The strength of our Republic was never in the so-called equality of our people, but in the fearless pursuit of truth by men and women left free to be unequal.” Charlie Reese*

We have turned into an egalitarian society, one that emphasizes equality and security rather than freedom. Egalitarianism goes beyond equal rights to assume that people themselves, not their rights, are equal.

We believers are soldiers in the mother of all wars, it’s called the Angelic Conflict. Our Commander in Chief is none other than Jesus Christ, the Lord of the armies.

There is a price to pay for those who fail to heed His command to stand with Him and stand against bullies who would take away our freedom.

Read: ***Jer. 6:10-15***