

Greater Love 11-11-2011



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By Robert Buckner - November 16, 2011

Every November 11th Americans are provided a day whereby they can collectively recall and honor those who have served their country in military service. No one entering the military "*knows*" what will ultimately be demanded of them.

According to the Oath that they take, they all understand that they have pledged their honor, their integrity, and their country and countrymen – before their own lives.

Not every person who serves in the military becomes a hero – but every person who serves in the military does willingly place themselves into the realm of possibility and circumstance - that they **could** become a hero!

In our contemporary culture, the term, "**Hero**" is frequently applied in many, many, well-intended, but inappropriate ways. Unfortunately, when this happens, it quite naturally diminishes the *real* and *appropriate* sense of what a *true* hero *really* is.

Our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ defined one who is willing to lay down their life for another as possessive of a "**Greater Love.**"

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends".

I was introduced to the Bible and Christianity as an adult. Frequently, the important concepts that many Christians come to understand, are first introduced to them as children. They inherit their *knowledge* at a very young age and sometimes it may be years, before they *understand* what they have known as children.

I confess it was difficult for me to initially understand *why* God would give His Son for "my" sins to be forgiven. Intellectually I was able to comprehend that it did happen – but the true weight of the "why" of that act, did escape me for quite some time. As an adult, I knew – absolutely – that I did not merit it!

I believe that Jesus' sacrifice for the sins of man would also, as Jesus said, qualify as an act of, "*Greater Love.*"

After a "Hero" has done their deed, even though the facts might be revealed and recounted, the true magnitude of what they endured might never be wholly realized by others. For example, on this earth, we have all experienced some measure of physical pain; we *know* what it is to have pain. Frequently, because we know pain, when speaking at the Lord's Table, it is not at all uncommon to mention the physical pain that Jesus most certainly did endure for us.

However, as I come to understand God, His Word and His Son, Jesus Christ, I am caused to be drawn into a deeper contemplation of wholly *what* my hero did know He would have to endure.

Jesus is the only one who ever lived in heaven before He lived on earth! When He accepted His role in God's Plan of Salvation, He knew what heaven was and also – what earth would be like, yet He came to fulfill God's Eternal Plan!

What did our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ "*know*" and "*what*" did He truly suffer, in His heroic stand in "our" place?

All of us *know* pain. None of us *know* being without **Sin!** Our hero, Jesus did live as a man **WITHOUT SIN** and then did take on **all** of the sin of man!

I am weak and I do sin and I feel terrible after I do! How must it have been for the **Son of God** to be separated from God and have the sin of man upon Him – Him who had "**known**" No Sin?

The true hero *knows* before he does what he does that it may demand the ultimate of him – but – he does it anyway, because of a "**Greater Love!**"

When we as Christians are considering whom we may want to deliver the "**Good News**" to – perhaps a **Veteran** might be a good prospect.

They have already demonstrated (not merely espoused) that they possess that ability for a, "**Greater Love.**"

Why not introduce them to the "**Greatest Love?**"



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