**Portraits of Courage Among the Brethren that**

**follow The Risen Saviour through Paul!**

(Updated – Jan 16, 2020)

*I figure this whole ‘experience’ of mine with the Portraits of Courage gallery is something you ‘have to have been there’ for you to truly understand it. One can see the pain, the suffering along with the victories in those paintings. I almost feel like I am guarding the tomb of the unknown soldier when I do my watch in that particular gallery.*

*I seem to sense some of their pains and challenges not physically, but spiritually. So, if you are having difficulties that are affecting you and your joy as you fight your own wars, and even though we know what we know, it is still something that is real for many of us. While we don’t ‘have’ to allow ourselves to be ‘wounded,’ I also believe this happens and has happened already to most of us. In fact, some of us may be fighting our own personal war wound at this very time as you read this.*

Keep in mind: The Devil wants to wear us out like he did the Israelites:

***And he shall speak great words against the most High***

 ***and shall wear out the saints of the most High…* Daniel 7:25a**

I have found that those of us who first went into various religions searching for and even claiming a religious salvation hoping for those pastorally preached ‘*blessings’* in life have now found out they never really did exist – unless someone had enough money to make those ‘*blessings’* appear.

We eventually came upon the real war when we grabbed ahold of the King James 1611 Bible as the preservation promised words of the Lord and found the true and risen Saviour by looking to Paul as our only apostle today.

We have also quickly found out that making any effort to live that ‘*godly life’* according to the manner of life as defined and described by Paul seems to bring more trials, persecutions and afflictions that initially surprised us as they blew up in our lives and brought us even more challenges of mental and physical hurt and pain, frustrations and sadness as we simply tried to adjust to a new life with the risen Saviour and living God.

In some respects, we are also ‘*wounded’* veterans of a spiritual war instead of the physical war as these Vets had. I am hoping that I (we) can learn a few things from these Portraits of Courage Vets.

We can see by those paintings that while their hurts and wounds are deeply painful physically, we also hear from their personal testimonies that those hurts also run deeply into their mental state.

While my / your war is ‘supposed’ to be a spiritual war, we do also find that when we do make an attempt, large or small, to read and heed the words of the risen Saviour through Paul only – and of course, as found in a King James 1611 Bible, we find many aspects of our daily and physical life also being challenged and often ‘negatively’ and at times, painfully affected.

**Do we ever want to give up – slow down – change our path – go backwards, etc.?**

**Do we try to escape** with food, living with our doubts, being too tired, losing patience with others as well as your own self, abusing your liberty, day dream, major on minor and minor on major issues, being negative 24/7, simply waiting for the rapture?

**Do we want our disappearing instead of loving his appearing?**

**Do we allow doubt and discouragement to enter into our daily lives?**

Many of us could quite possibly be experiencing some of the same elements of ‘woundage’ as did these veterans. Below are a few things I have read from these wounded and recovered veterans.

* **PTS / TBI symptoms** – if you read up on those subjects, you just may find a few things in your life that are similar… (again, maybe not as serious but still… they exist!). I will be reading up on PTS / TBI to see if and what symptoms, etc. are similar to what some of us may be experiencing. I have seen some already but I am going to wait for more study before I include spiritual PTS / TBI symptoms into this article.
* **Survivors Guilt** – How often do we wonder, “Why me, Lord?” “Why do I ‘get this’ and others that I care about and love do not?” Because so few understand, does it cause us to have our own doubts? If so, the best solution is to continue studying the scriptures and you will see it is so! ***These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* Act 17:11**
* **Avoidance / Dis-interest** - I think there are times that we just get tired of it all and lose interest, especially if I ever wonder if people are still reading the websites. What’s the oint of doing all that time, the frustration of it all, the stack of studies I want to do AND get into the websites, etc.
* **Loss of Sense of Purpose** – With all the shots and lost argument and getting no-where with people, do we ever wonder what our real purpose is? What is the purpose of the websites, the sermons, the study time, the emails, etc. because as we get older, our bucket list gets hard and harder to complete – or even try… and things that we once thought were important mean a lot less now.
* **Loss** of family, friends, marriages, jobs, church/brethren and social life, etc.
* **Irritability** – running short of patience because of more and more reasons…?
* **Addiction** to ‘drugs’ such as eating, TV and couch potatoing, music, laziness, slothfulness, apatheticness, drugs, alcohol and smoking, workaholics, spending money for ‘new’ stuff, technology suckers and video game playing, pornography, sex and other things that simply make provisions for our flesh. ***But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*** **Romans 13:14**
* **Insomnia –** I often dream of returning to preach and teach in many of my past churches as I try to get them to see the risen Saviour, KJB, Paul, etc. It is amazing how often this happens as well as the combinations of the many people and students I have had in my past – they all seem to show up in these dreams, with me often waking up in a frustrating sweat being full of anxiety.
* **Nightmares –** rehashing your past actions that brought about the traumatic moments during your witnessing, testifying or even just talking to folks that you no longer know.
* **Frustrations** that ‘get us down’ and are quite mentally debilitating and create doubt.
* **Suicidal**, both physical AND spiritual suicide… giving up and returning to the bondage of religion, pastoral control and authority, women and children ruling your life as a man as well as various abuses for women from husbands, boyfriends, leaders, etc.
* **No support groups** – While we need the brethren, we realize that we are scattered around the world and have very few opportunities to sit down with a brother/sister and just talk and be encouraging to each other.
* **Puzzled by what you see in others**. Seeing their sufferings and pains of ‘good people’- the deception and lies of pastors – the blindness in religion, etc. - or their pretend happiness and success in life and in their families, jobs, etc. it can make sense to us, but only if one understands the teachings of the Risen Saviour as well as an understanding of scriptures from Genesis to Revelation.

***“Stand firm on your foundation”***

– Sergeant Daniel Casara -

As Sergeant Casara had America for his foundation, we also have a solid foundation to stand on: ***For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* I Corinthians 3:11**

**Always Has Been and Always Will be War Until…**

There has been war from **Genesis** to **Revelation** and it will continue until God finally puts it all to rest. In fact, as we are in the latter times and approach those ‘last days,’ we will see more and more wars and rumors of war. See **Matthew 24:6**.

We will also hear more and more talks of peace. See **Daniel 8:25; I Thessalonians 5:3**

Do the people who ‘demand’ peace realize they themselves are being warlike in their approach along with their angry comments towards those of us who are ‘old school boomers,’ etc.?

**Not only do people seem to have no clue, people today cannot even have any clue!**

* They have been deceived, lied to, brainwashed through the public-school system, higher education professors who are bottom line ungodly evolution supporting anti-God communists, schoolbook curriculums and home schools and private schools still use.
* They follow youth and senior pastors, leaders, authors, musicians, teachers, counselors, etc. who are proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions an strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness.
* They are evil men and seducers and shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
* More and more people are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirts, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.
* They want to be rich but instead will fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which will drown them in destruction and perdition.
* They covet after and love money, which is the root of all evil thus they will err from the faith, and will pierce themselves through with many sorrows. But for now, they think they either live in or have the knowledge to create a utopian lifestyle – for free.
* They are taught to resist the truth by those who also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.
* They show their own signs of growing closer and closer to the last days of perilous times when men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...
* They follow as well as profess themselves to be wise all the while they are becoming fools – Read **Romans 1:18-32**, and only in a King James Bible, of course!

**Where am I with all this?**

After hearing the stories of these vets, I ask myself, “*Where is my courage to fight the ‘real war’ that I can read about? Where is my courage to deal with the wounds that I will receive?” Where is my courage to get up and get going again, regardless of the spiritual and often mental and physical wounds I have suffered?*

We have found out that pastors of all denominations are preaching a false gospel of a ‘magic Jesus’ who will ‘bless your life’ if you are living an obedient life and/or hurt you to bring God closer to you or simply a punishment from the severity of God!

Of course, we have come to know that their “good words and fair speeches” are all lies – we are living in the dispensation of the grace of God, NOT the severity of God, otherwise known as the **Old Testament** which includes the **gospels** and **Acts 1-8** along with **Hebrews** through **Jude**. There is no severity of God to ‘fear’ today. Yester-years? Yes! Tomorrow-years? Yes! But Today? NO!

Simply having that foundational knowledge and understanding is enough to give us the courage to get up after we have fallen, been knocked down or sat down with our own whining about our personal frustrations, weaknesses, complaints and jealousies, etc.

**All Things ARE BECOME NEW!**

***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*** **II Corinthians 5:17**. Every second is a new second!

We need to be active – not expecting or waiting for that magic Jesus to fix things by blessing us physically but to turn to the KJB for our directions, guidance and ways to ‘be’ as a Christian, not just ‘do.’ Paul’s manner of life is not just another set of rules / laws to follow.

**We can engage and reach for our own goals, as the Veterans themselves did with great:**

Courage

Stamina

Tenacity

Strength

Assurance

Godly Wisdom

Patience

Understanding

Resiliency

**We must work out our salvation today!**

**Philippians 2:12,13** - ***Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***

**Where is my courage, etc. to fight this spiritual war…**

…with my own flesh?

…to read and study my KJB, now that I know how to rightly divide… and then DO?

…to use wisdom and grace on and for others?

…to live by HIS faith?

…to STAND FAST?

…to enjoy my liberty but not as a means to please the flesh?

…to get up and walk again, even if having been shot down by the enemy AND friendly fire?

**Remember, we will suffer persecution and affliction if we even try to live godly!**

* **II Corinthians 4:17,18** ***- For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;***
* **II Timothy 1:8 - *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;***
* **II Timothy 4:5 - *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make1 full proof of thy ministry.***
* **2Ti 3:10-12 *- But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

**We must fight the fight of faith, as did Paul for our ensample.**

**I Timothy 6:12 *- Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.***

**Will you also be able to say as Paul said?**

**2Ti 4:7** ***- I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:***

**Our biggest war is between our mind and flesh!**

* ***Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.***
* ***I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.***
* ***For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:***
* ***But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.***
* ***wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body5 of this death?***
* ***I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.***

**Romans 7:20-25**

**We must endure hardness, not for salvation, but it is part of our calling!**

**Philippians 1:28**

***And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.***

**II Thessalonians 1:4,5**

***So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:***

***Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* II Timothy 2:3**

* We must endure hardness, not run from it!
* We must endure hardness, not for our salvation but to give God His glory!
* We must endure hardness by his grace that is sufficient

**II Corinthians 12:9 -** ***And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***

* We must endure hardness and not expect God to keep us from it magically!
* We must endure hardness and not complain about it.
* We must endure hardness, because He tells us to!

**We must not only endure hardness; we can try to do something about it!**

Sadly, much of our pain, afflictions, sufferings, etc. is NOT based on living godly following the risen Saviour through our King James Bible following Paul.

1. We often choose the wrong battle or at the wrong time or at the wrong place, etc.
2. We are carrying baggage from earlier years
3. We can’t get totally away from the religion that we grew up with or recently learned as we must learn what and how to forget what we were taught incorrectly because we had blindly followed the leaders instead of reading the KJB for ourselves.
4. We fight our own pride, seeking that PR victory over the ways of the world and over others.
5. We have burnt many bridges with our bad testimonies of arguing, teaching others the false gospel by saying, living and doing things that caused others to stumble or misunderstand.
6. Knowing we are without honor in our own country / family / friends, etc. **John 4:44** ***For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.*** They all remember our worldly ways from ‘before we were saved,’ or from ‘before we pretended to try to do ‘right’ based on the church teachings,’ etc. and now have finally found the truth, etc. One bible? One apostle? No local church? Folks just won’t accept it from us!

**We have no excuse – we should know the real enemy!**

**Ephesians 6:12**, ***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

**And God DOES give us everything we need to fight our wars successfully:**

* He makes us the soldier we need to be!
* He tells us the correct ways and when to do a proper fight!
* He gives us a great leader in Paul as our ensample!
* He gives us His written words as our guide to infinity and beyond.
* He even tells us we will be wounded but then tells us how to deal with those wounds and eventually heals us 100%.
* He rewards us ‘later’ for our efforts, not specific victories, etc**. I Corinthians 3:13,14**
* When the time comes, the ‘commander in chief’ will return and take us. **Rom 11:22**
* He tells us about the enemy in detail so we can know how to avoid him and know his subtle and wicked ways along with his fiery darts and doctrines of devils, etc.
* He equips with all we need for our spiritual warfare.

And of course, everyone knows, **Ephesians 6:13-19**

***Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,***

***that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

***Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,***

***and having on the breastplate of righteousness;***

***And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;***

***Above all, taking the shield of faith,***

***wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

***And take the helmet of salvation,***

***and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:***

***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,***

***and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;***

**Our Target Goal**

***And for me, that utterance may be given unto me,***

***that I may open my mouth boldly,***

***to make known the mystery of the gospel…***

And today, that is OUR goal – to find a way for folks to be told about

the risen Saviour THROUGH PAUL in that King James Bible,

and not the apostle’s doctrine, Gospels, Peter, James, John, etc.

**We ought to want to at least have tried to be able to say what Paul said at his end:**

***I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* II Timothy 4:7**