

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN SOLDIER SAINTS

Tonight, we want to remember our dear brothers,

who have gone to heaven before us.

This special service is in memory of them.

Prov 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness:
but **a faithful man** who can find?

Faithful men are indeed rare even hard to find and now, we are 3 short

since the passing of:

- Alain Dery
- Darryl Mefford
- Oscar Woodall

These were faithful men and we surely miss them!

Faithfulness is serious business,

in fact, it is necessary when doing God's work:

1 Cor 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ,
and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that **a man be found faithful**.

Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word 'faithful' to mean:

Firmly adhering to the truth and to duty and service --- being loyal in allegiance.

2 Tim 4:5-8 But

- watch thou in all things,
- endure afflictions,
- do the work of an evangelist,
- make full proof of thy ministry.

6 For I am now ready to be offered,
and the time of my departure is at hand.

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

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only,
but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The course for these faithful men is over they fought the fight like good soldiers.

You certainly don't want a man who might drop his gun in a fox-hole with you --- to take a smoke break or eat a snack --- while you're fighting a fierce enemy together!

You naturally want to labour with a faithful man,
who will see the mission through to its end.

Faithful men are firmly grounded in GRACE:

2 Tim 2:1-4 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Faithful men are actively TEACHING the doctrines of grace to other men:

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses,
the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Faithful men are able to sustain through life's tough circumstances:

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Faithful men keep their mind on their work in order to accomplish a job well done:

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;
that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Faithful men are good soldiers who realize both the price and the reward of victory.

Even our military society recognizes great acts of bravery and courage with medals of honor. Well, so does God.

God will also have a judgment day for His workers:

1 Cor 3:8-9 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one:
and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

9 For we are labourers together with God:
ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Faithful men -- (good soldiers)

- are not distracted
- they are unwavering
- continually labouring with God:

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren,

- be ye stedfast,
 - unmoveable,
 - always abounding in the work of the Lord,
- forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Faithful men know there is going to be a pay-day --- some-day.

They don't want their work for the Lord to be useless:

Phil 2:14-16 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Let's look at the words Paul used to describe a dear friend of his to the Phillipians:

We'll read:

Phil 2:25-30 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus,

- my brother,
- and • companion in labour,
- and • fellowsoldier,
- but your • messenger,
- and • he that ministered to my wants.

Tonight, we remember our dear friends that way also.

Paul's friend nearly worked himself to death literally doing the work of Christ:

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Faithful men maintain their primary focus on eternal matters.

They know our physical bodies will die

so we better prepare for eternity -- here and now ---

while we can --- while we are still alive:

2 Cor 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 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.

These Faithful men have now experienced what we're still waiting for.

They've moved out of their 'earthly house' into their 'heavenly house':

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

In Summary:

Many times we heard Oscar Woodall remind people that he was around 40 years old before anyone ever took the time to question him about his eternal destiny. He quoted this verse:

Psa 142:4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; **no man cared for my soul**.

May we not be guilty of unconcern. Let us resolve to be faithful

Let us be faithful in giving out the gospel of Christ:

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Tim. 2:3b-4 God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Let us also be faithful in talking to others about right division of the scriptures:

Rom 16:25-27 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God,

made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

So tonight, as our thoughts are on the memories of our dear brothers

as Fallen Soldier Saints ...

let us • honor, • console, and • encourage their widows,

as we commemorate the faithful service of their husbands to the work of the Lord:

1 Thess 5:11-13 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren,

to know them which labour among you,

and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.

And be at peace among yourselves.

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"