

A SALUTE TO VETERANS **(2 Timothy 2:3-4)**

I. Veterans and Christians are sent.

- a. Everyone who enters the military, whether by draft or enlistment, is sent off to basic training.
 - i. One leaves home for an extended period of time to learn the basic responsibility of a soldier in whatever branch of the military that is entered.
 - ii. The soldier has no choice but to go where he or she is sent.
- b. Upon completing basic training, the soldier is then sent to his or her assignment.
 - i. Where this is depends on what job you have.
 - ii. Again, the soldier has no choice but to go where sent.
- c. Some soldiers are sent to foreign countries.
- d. Some soldiers are sent off to war.
- e. Wherever they are sent, soldiers go.
- f. The Christian has been sent by our Lord into the world.
 - i. You and I are not to be of the world, or allow the world in us.
 - ii. However, there is no way for us to go out of the world (1 Corinthians 5:9-10).
- g. You and I have been given a job, or commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).
 - i. We've been sent to do the work of Christ.
 - ii. Jesus commanded that His apostles pray for laborers in the harvest (Matthew 9:38).
 - iii. You and I, as Christians, are the laborers.
- h. We've been given a job to do: bring the lost to Christ.
 - i. We had a missionary here Sunday evening.
 - ii. You and I are to be missionaries to those around us because we've been sent by the Lord to do the job of sewing the seed, like Blake talked about Wednesday evening.
- i. The lost includes those who have never obeyed the gospel as well as those who have left the Lord (James 5:19-20).
- j. Veterans have been sent many places, some of which they had probably never heard of before.
- k. Christians are sent next door and around the world: we are to go.

II. Veterans and Christians serve.

- l. The life of a military member is a life of service to others.
 - i. We have all heard military life referred to as "the service".
 - ii. The efforts of our soldiers through the years have been for us Americans as well as those in other nations.
- m. Today, we have soldiers in foreign countries benefitting the citizens there.
 - i. In times of tragedy around the world, US troops have been sent with aid to serve the people affected by storm, drought, or other tragic events.
 - ii. Many countries depend on the service of our veterans for help and hope.

- n.No doubt the same is true here in America.
 - i.Soldiers were sent to Tuscaloosa to help after the tornadoes.
 - ii.I've seen soldiers sent to flood areas to help erect sandbag walls.
- o.Many of our veterans have served this nation in time of war.
 - i.When the call has gone out, our veterans have answered that call to serve.
 - ii.In situations many would find daunting and unsustainable, the US veteran has overcome and served in a mighty way.
- p.The Christian is called to a life of service.
 - i.We are called to serve God (Hebrews 12:28).
 - ii.We are called to serve the Lord (John 12:26; Colossians 3:24).
 - iii.We serve one another (Galatians 5:13).
 - iv.We serve the lost when we go and sow the seed of the kingdom.
- q.Paul was one who often called himself a servant of God (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1).
- r.To be considered great in the kingdom of God, you and I must be servants (Matthew 20:27).
- s.As veterans have, we serve in different areas.
 - i.We have song leaders, elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, card writers, visitors, and a host of other important servers.
 - ii.Each of these is vital and necessary.
 - iii.There is some area, or areas, in which we can serve.
- t.We are all to serve others with our lives.
 - i.We are to be doing good towards others.
 - ii.Our good deeds will allow us to be better sowers of the seed of the gospel.
- u.Notice what Paul told servants (Ephesians 6:5-8).
 - i.All the service we do for others is really for the Lord.
 - ii.In everything we do, we are serving Him.
- v.Veterans serve and have served in many ways, not just in fighting.
- w.Christians serve in many ways and we are always serving God.

III. Veterans and Christians sacrifice.

- x.America's veterans have literally sacrificed life and limb for this country.
 - i.Thousands of men and women have given their lives for the freedoms we enjoy.
 - ii.When speaking of veterans, it has long been stated, "All gave some; some gave all".
 - iii.I recently read of a veteran who is a quadruple amputee because of wounds sustained in Afghanistan.
 - iv.He still serves others today by working with other veteran amputees.
- y.Veterans have sacrificed financially.
 - i.Military life is not a high paying affair.
 - ii.I saw something the other day about soldiers not making \$15 an hour but somebody flipping burgers feels they should make that.
- z.Veterans have sacrificed their time.
 - i.I watched a video Thursday of veterans who came home and surprised their families from whom they had been long separated.
 - ii.Some have had children born while they are deployed.

- iii. They have missed things in their children's lives so we don't have to with our children.
- aa. Some veterans have sacrificed their mental health.
 - i. PTSD has affected many of our soldiers.
 - ii. Their minds are not the same because of what they have seen and experienced protecting us and our freedom.
- bb. There is no doubt our veterans have sacrificed much for our freedoms.
- cc. Christians, as well, are called to a life of sacrifice.
 - i. We are called to give our lives if necessary.
 - (1) 1 John 3:16.
 - (2) Revelation 2:10.
 - ii. We are called to suffer for the cause of Christ.
 - (1) 1 Peter 4:12-14.
 - (2) 2 Timothy 3:12.
- dd. Christians sacrifice financially as we preached about a few Sundays ago.
 - i. We are commanded to give, which is just as much a command as to be baptized.
 - ii. We willingly sacrifice in order to serve others.
- ee. Christians sacrifice their time as well.
 - i. There are many things we could be doing besides working in or for the kingdom.
 - ii. We willingly give of our time for the Lord because we know that no sacrifice is too great to make because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.
- ff. Our veterans have sacrificed much for us and Christians sacrifice as well.