

Hello Orange Cove Church Family & Friends of Orange Cove,

**Pastor's Weekly Letter: January 26, 2017 – "Commitment Paradox"**

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Happy Tuesday, January 26, 2017. Once again it was a tremendous blessing to be in church this passed Sabbath. David Merritt preached such a powerful sermon. It really hit the bulls-eye. God uses our church worship services to speak to us. May we make church attendance a priority in our week.

**This Week's Devotional – "Commitment Paradox"**

From 1939, when Adolf Hitler's Nazi armies invaded Poland, Europe and Britain was on edge. The United States watched from a distance as they were isolated from eminent danger. When World War 2 broke out, the United States became a little more concerned, but was still determined not to get involved. Then, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese air force bombed American warships in Pearl Harbor. 2,403 Americans were killed. The whole nation rallied together to defend their country and avenge the losses incurred during the brutal attack on their brothers and sisters.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the American people and called them into action. He invited young men to join the armed forces, he invited women and teenagers to take the place of male workers in the factories who had joined the army and he called on everyone to make sacrifices so the war could be won. Due to the evil alliance between Germany, Italy and Japan, President Roosevelt allied the United States Armed Forces with the allied forces of Britain, France, Russia and all of the European resistance fighters from the countries the Nazi armies had invaded.

On the American home-front, citizens voluntarily agreed to food rations, gas rations and rations on any other supplies which would jeopardize a shortfall to the war effort. The American people came together as one united force to ensure that their military won the war. The discipline and resolve was staggering. Only toddlers and very young children weren't engaged in one of the war efforts or another. School aged children helped on farms or harvest food from community gardens. "Between 1940 and 1944, the number of teenage workers increased by 1.9 million, and the number of students in public high schools dropped from 6.6 million in 1940 to 5.6 million in 1944, as a million students—and many teachers—took jobs." –Wikipedia.com.

When mankind fell into sin, the great controversy—or the war between good and evil—originated. But, unfortunately, instead of fighting the enemy as a united front, mankind fraternized, flirted with and befriended the enemy. The enemy's tactics were to hide behind the scenes and lure mankind into thinking that he doesn't exist and that the fallen world is their only home and that they must expend their energies on making sure that their lives were comfortable. The enemy made sure that mankind forgot about eternal life and heavenly treasures and that they were to live for temporal pleasures and personal gain.

Furthermore, the enemy diminished the importance of the Church of Christ and its role in the war against evil. He created religious traditions and rituals that people performed once a week and the rest of the week he made sure they were as distracted by the things of this world as the people sold out to the world themselves. When the Church of Christ is compared to the united front by the American people against the evil empires of Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan, how does it compare? Are church

members committed and disciplined to make sure they sacrifice to ensure victory over the very enemy who wants to kill, steal and destroy every part of their lives?

What do we see in the Church of Christ? Don't we so often see undisciplined, low-committed contributions to the war effort against evil? Don't we often see how churches lack committed children's Sabbath School teachers, reliable deacons and deaconesses, dependable sound technicians, and/or dedicated church members who will own the responsibility of running a church with a high standard of excellence? How could America contribute to winning World War 2 if their military and citizens were as committed as so many churchgoers today? They wouldn't have won the war, right? May we all learn a lesson from the united war effort that contributed to the overwhelming Allied victory in World War 2.

Orange Cove Church

Pastor André Van Heerden