

# Shepherd's Voice

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## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

July 2019



### *The Good Fight of Faith*

Dr. John Gresham Machen

The Apostle Paul was a great fighter. His fighting was partly against external enemies—against hardships of all kinds. Five times he was scourged by the Jews, three times by the Romans; he suffered shipwreck four times; and was in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by his own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. And finally he came to the logical end of such a life, by the headsman's axe. It was hardly a peaceful life, but was rather a life of wild adventure. Lindbergh, I suppose, got a thrill when he hopped off to Paris, and people are in search of thrills today; but if you wanted a really unbroken succession of thrills, I think you could hardly do better than try knocking around the Roman Empire of the first century with the Apostle Paul, engaged in the unpopular business of turning the world upside down.

But these physical hardships were not the chief battle in which Paul was engaged. Far more trying was the battle that he fought against the enemies in his own camp. Everywhere his rear was threatened by an all-engulfing paganism or by a perverted Judaism that has missed the real purpose of the Old Testament law. Read the Epistles with care, and you see Paul always in conflict. At one time he fights paganism in life, the notion that all kinds of conduct are lawful to the Christian man, a philosophy that makes Christian liberty a mere aid to pagan license. At another time, he fights paganism in thought, the sublimation of the Christian doctrine of the resurrection of the body into the pagan doctrine of the immortality of the soul. At still another time, he fights the effort of human pride to substitute man's merit as the means of salvation for divine grace; he fights the subtle propaganda of the Judaizers with its misleading appeal to the Word of God. Everywhere we see the great apostle in conflict for the preservation of the church. It is as though a mighty flood were seeking to engulf the church's life; dam the break at one point in the levee, and another break appears somewhere else. Everywhere paganism was seeping through; not for one moment did Paul have peace; always he was called upon to fight.

Fortunately, he was a true fighter; and by God's grace he not only fought, but he won.

<http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/machen/good-fight-of-faith.html>

**NOTE:** On March 10th, 1929, Dr. J. Gresham Machen delivered this, his last sermon before the students at the Princeton Theological Seminary. Machen had fought against the liberalization of the Seminary, but the liberals took control. Theological conservatives were forced out. The Conservatives established Westminster Theological Seminary, and the new school opened in the fall of 1929 under Machen's leadership.

# Elder Ed Saunders



## Freedom Has Never Been

Freedom Has Never Been  
Freedom has never been  
Free at all  
It takes an effort,  
Or it will fall.

Men have fought.  
And died for sure,  
Just the thought,  
Of freedom to have.

The Road to freedom,  
Is lined with blood,  
Of those who dreamed,  
Of a better day.

Where men might life,  
In a better way.  
Not have to fear,  
Both Night and day.

Freedom marches,  
To bare it's cause.  
It can not rest  
Or even pause.

It must stand  
Against many foes.  
Bare its armor,  
Where ever it goes.

Freedom lives,  
In the hearts of men.  
Who in it's honor,  
Is there to defend.

Freedom is a noble cause,  
That brave men will pursue.  
It is not given,  
But earned for sure.

It must be Kept,  
At all cost.  
That it won't be lost,  
From lack of concern.

Freedom has never been  
Free at all.  
It takes an effort,  
Or it will Fall.

By: Ed Saunders  
Santa Maria, CA  
June 18, 2019  
1:45 pm