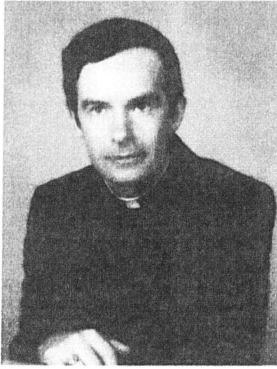


## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



Every era of American history has been plagued by an invasive foreign threat to freedom. America's birth was precipitated by the imperialism of a tyrannical monarchy. Soon afterward, the tentacles of the Illuminati extended across the Atlantic

bureaucrats, the media, academics, or corporate executives. Take the time and make the effort to read, attend meetings, ask the right questions, and dare to think for yourself.

While foreign threats against freedom assume different forms, they emanate from the same source. To deal effectively with threats, we must first be willing and able to identify the source -- the enemy. Ultimately, America's problems are spiritual. "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the...world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12) Satan knows that "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (II Cor. 3:17)

to subvert decentralized government, free market economy, and Judaeo-Christian values. The defeat of the South in the WBTS was crucial to the success of its program in America. Today, it promotes a liberal philosophy that produces irrationality to a state of mental illness and amorality symptomatic of spiritual degeneration. Next came the rise of Fascism and Communism. Then, beginning in earnest with the oil embargo of 1973, we are now challenged by Islam, a demonically inspired terrorist movement with a political, economic, and social ideology disguised as a religion that culminates with physical death for its adversaries and spiritual death for its adherents. Regardless of the form taken, each threat has employed the same methods: lure potential followers with false promises, intimidate resisters, disarm and disenfranchise the masses, and silence all opposition.

In war, physical conflagrations erupt in many theaters. But, the real front line is located in the mind. It is there that the causes and strategies of conflicts are conceived. Whether for good or evil, it is not what we know, but what we believe that motivates the actions of man. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..." (Prov. 23:7) This is why the enemy plots to control the media, educational system, and publishing. Our thoughts are equal to our actions. (Matt. 5:28, I Jn. 3:15)

More people are beginning to ask what they can do individually to deal with the threatening situations confronting us. There are some general precautions we should practice regardless of the type of threat or tactic used. It is always better to hold the higher ground. We can begin by avoiding vulnerability and being willing to take personal responsibility. First, minimize or avoid as much personal debt as possible because "...the borrower is the slave of the lender." (Prov. 22:7) Know the difference between needs and wants and be honest with yourself. Ignore alluring and seductive jingles and sound bites. Resist entertaining distractions and social pressure to conform. Refuse to sacrifice independence and freedom for comfort and security. Franklin said, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Second, it is as beneficial to be armed with knowledge as it is to be with munitions. We must seek out truth and educate ourselves, not relying on those with an agenda, such as politicians and

How can each one of us effectively resist our archadversary and his minions? One of the enemy's most effective methods to control freedom of thought, and therefore freedom of action, is to silence opposing views that reveal truth. This is why prayer has been removed from public education, crosses and other Christian symbols are being eradicated from public display, and Confederate flags and monuments are being desecrated. Symbols speak as effectively as words. St. Paul admonishes, "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15) But, just to study Scripture is not enough. The Word of God cannot be contained in the pages of a book or behind closed doors. It lives and its

**Rudd Continued...** power is manifested when we boldly speak, share, and live it in every sphere of life as a way of life. The apostles propagated the Gospel of salvation through Christ alone and did good works in His name and by His power to the consternation of the ruling authorities. (Acts 3-5) They were arrested, imprisoned, beaten, and ordered to stop speaking and teaching in the name of Christ. In response, the apostles set an example for us by exposing the authorities' sinful practices and declaring, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29) "And every day in the Temple (publicly) and at home (privately) they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (Acts 5:42) Little has changed in 2000 years. As the apostles suffered adverse reaction, so we must be prepared to do the same when we defend the sanctity of life and marriage, proclaim salvation through Christ alone, pray publicly in His name, wear the Cross as a testimony of our faith, or fly Confederate banners as emblems reminding Americans of the original intent of the Founding Fathers. In evaluating our priorities, we must have the courage and foresight to look beyond transitory adverse consequences to the longterm and eternal effects of our beliefs and actions. The future of your children and grandchildren, the future of America, and the fate of eternal souls are at stake. Christ said, "And do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in Hell." (Matt. 10:28)

For now, the adversary appears to have the advantage, but we are not to be discouraged, for ultimately Christians are on the winning side of the battle. Christ's disciples mistakenly thought that He had come to establish immediately His kingdom on earth and end their persecution under Rome. In a parable (Lk. 19), Christ teaches us, as He taught them, that we are to "fight the good fight of the faith" (I Tim. 6:12) until He returns to establish His millennial kingdom. Until then, we are charged to, in His words, "Occupy until I come." (Lk. 19:13) In consideration of our enemies, Nehemiah advised, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, Who is great and terrible (stronger than our enemies), and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes." (Neh. 4:14) And, as Churchill insisted, "Never give in! Never give in! Never, never, never!"

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