

Serve Your Homeland

Sermon November 8, 2020 - Remembrance Sunday

GOLDEN VERSE: "Seek the peace and prosperity of the Land." Jeremiah 29:7

SCRIPTURES 1 Thessalonians 4:9-18

Dear Beloved,

Today, on Remembrance Sunday, we pause and remember those brave soldiers, nurses, physicians, and many others, who were serving our country, making an effort to reinstate peace on this earth. We remember and honour those who responded to God's and our country's call to protect others. We remember and honour those, who, fulfilling their call, were sacrificing themselves to save lives. Today, we pay our respect towards those who showed their love in a very special way towards our country, our home Canada, who were risking and sacrificing themselves to provide us with a peaceful present and a better future. We remember and admire those heroes who died on battle fields, pouring out their blood as living sacrifices for that peace, which never became their own.

Honour all those brave persons, who served, marching towards death to win for us a victorious and peaceful present. There are no words to express our honour and gratitude towards those heroes, whose bodies are resting somewhere in a foreign country's soil. Their decayed bodies found a new home in a strange land. We know, that only their bodies are resting there in unmarked graves, but their spirits and souls have found eternal rest and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life.

Looking back and remembering is very important. We need to know our history. But we cannot just look back, because we are NOT going into that direction. We have to look forward and today, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us see and discern: how WE can serve our home CANADA; how we can show love for our country, friends, neighbours and family; and how we can share all the beauty God gave us in this sacred land, CANADA.

Let us see how we can SERVE our homeland, CANADA.

Here my goal is not to attract new recruits to the military, but together we want to see many other ways to serve our country.

1. Vote

In a democracy, it is our right and our duty to vote. We have to pay attention to the issues, and we have to vote. More than five billion people on this earth still don't have the right to vote, to express their hearts' desire, and people die every day fighting for it. When we vote, we make our democracy stronger.

2. Get An Education

I am not encouraging only young people to study and to learn. I used to say to my children and to myself: "If you stop learning, you stop living." Everyone can learn something every day. The

more we know, the more we are able to contribute to our country. When we learn and when we study, we are making OUR country a better place.

3. We All Have To Manage Our Finances

I would love to stand on the roof of our church building and preach from there, asking our younger generation to start saving at an early age. I know it is easier to spend than to save. We all have to learn at an early age: to get our expenses under control; to get out of debt as soon as possible; and to save as much as we can. We should teach our children not to depend on the government to take care of them. They should learn not just to wait for the government's support. The government has no money. The government's money is from those people's taxes who are working hard. I am saying with love to this for younger generation: "One day you have to take care, not only of yourself, but also your loved ones, your children and your parents." We all have to learn to count on only that money we earn with our sweat. Our responsibility is to be financially self-sufficient and we should not be a burden on our country.

I am very upset with those young and strong people who decided to come to Canada, because they previously heard that it is so easy to abuse the Canadian system. Somebody told me once about his own experiences, saying: "In Canada, if you can fake well, you can get a lot of money from the Government, because the Canadian system is crazy, and if you don't want to work you don't have to."

4. Spend Quality And Quantity Time With Your Children

If you have children, please spend as much quality and quantity time as possible with them. The quantity is not as important as the quality. The quality time you spend with them, loving them and teaching them, will pay great dividends in the future for them, for you and for our country. I am one of those many fathers, who is regretting now that I did not spend enough time with my children. Because I was working and studying day and night, I did not spend enough time to listen to them, to watch their competitions, and to cheer for them. I did not make enough memories playing with them. It is just by the grace of God, that they grew up and became great citizens for our country, Canada.

5. Worship God In His Holy Temple And Pray For Canada

I would encourage all Canadians, whatever religion they practice, to attend their churches, the place where they can hear God's gracious, merciful and loving message. Take your children and grandchildren to Sunday school, and you will experience that God will bless you with friends there, who will be your siblings in time of need. Be certain to avoid the fanatical groups, who create their own gods. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the God of love, peace and care. Pray fervently for our country and speak positively about Canada all the time.

6. Volunteer

Even in our city, here in Kitchener, or in your area where you live, there are many great Christian and non-Christian organizations that need your helping hands. Without volunteers, a lot of beneficial work will be left undone in our communities.

7. Share/Give

Everything we have, we received by God's grace, who have us health, wisdom and a job to work. Share and give what you can. As God's children, we cannot live for ourselves alone. If you want to serve our country, then please give whatever you can. When you donate money, choose carefully, and make sure that your money will be used wisely and for the purpose for which you gave. Please do your research before you write your cheque.

8. Care For Our Environment

Today we hear about a healthy environment. If you want to pass on clean and healthy Canadian soil to your grandchildren, please do what you can, and influence others to care for our land. Often, we take water, air and electricity for granted. We easily can waste so much water, and we are not thinking that the water we have today won't be available for our grandchildren.

9. Learn To Speak Your Adopted Country's Language

If you are a new immigrant I am encouraging you to learn to speak English, or even French if you can, and as soon as possible. English is the most dominant and used language but you shall never forget your native language. Your native language will shape your way of thinking and will inspire your feelings until you die. But our English language will help you to advance, to study, and to prosper here in Canada.

Those who are the first immigrant generation should never forget our roots from where we came to Canada. That country and culture will always play a significant role in us. For a while, we might stand with two feet in two different countries. But the time has to come when we will focus on growing our new roots in this sacred Canadian soil, which is nourishing us, which gives us a new home and where our hearts are beating. This is our home and land where we work, we love and we pray.

10. Respect The National Anthem And Sing It With Pride

Make sure that you really mean all the words you are saying. When we are singing our Canadian anthem, we pray to OUR GOD asking Him to keep our land glorious and free. Being a proud Canadian, and singing our anthem proudly, we will actively demonstrate our love for our country, continually striving for a better country for all. Please continue displaying your patriotism by lifting up proudly Canada's Flag, celebrating our national holidays, and devoting yourself to making our country the best place to be.

These are just a few things we can do to love and serve our country, other than joining the military. Please love and serve our sacred country as great patriots. All our positive action we take will have an impact for the better, and benefit us all.

I am sure that we all, who are worshipping here today, LOVE CANADA, our country, and we will continue to show it in words and actions. Let us continue to invest our time, talent and treasure into our families and into OUR country. Let us continue to love this land, our home, to love our people, and to celebrate the culture that bonds us together as a nation. I am sure that we all will continue to do the best we can do for our homeland with the greatest proficiency and dedication.

I am asking and encouraging all of us, to make a collective effort as committed citizens, and children of God, to restore God's glory in our country, which was damaged, humiliated, and excluded from schools and public places. This way we will have a much brighter future for the whole nation. Without God, we have only the past, but with God we have a glorious future.

Let's work for it and now pray for it. Amen