

120.5 An Honorable Regret

Singing legends Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra sang the all-time classic, “*My Way*.” The second verse of the song begins with:

Regrets, I’ve had a few,

But then again, too few to mention.

The song reveals that we must be true to ourselves and, despite our regrets, we will accomplish more than if we compromise our principles.

We all have regrets about career choices, decisions about children, or missed opportunities. Did you know that God has had regrets, too? For instance, God regretted:

- That He made Saul the King of Israel in **1 Samuel 15:11, 35**
- Even more shocking, God regretted making man in **Genesis 6:6** (KJV)

The biggest regret we may have is in rejecting Jesus. Listen to why in **2 Corinthians 5:10** (NKJV):

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Don’t you know that on Judgment Day, facing eternity, billions of people will regret NOT following Jesus in the shortness of this life?

On **September 10, 1776**, **General George Washington** asked for a volunteer to carry out a dangerous spy mission. The volunteer was to gather information behind enemy lines for the upcoming battle of Harlem Heights. Twenty-one-year-old **Nathan Hale** volunteered for the job and masqueraded as a Dutch schoolmaster who went behind enemy lines on Long Island to gather troop information.

The Dutch schoolmaster was not a stretch for Hale as he was a Yale-educated school teacher. He had almost gone into ministry as his brother, Enoch, had but decided to teach. He joined the Continental Army and served as a Captain and, lastly, a spy.

On **September 21, 1776**, Hale tried to escape with the information that General Washington needed, but the British arrested, searched and interrogated him when the soldiers discovered the implicating documents. British **General William Howe** ordered Hale’s execution the following morning by hanging.

As the British executioners led Captain Hale to the gallows, they asked if he had any last words. He purportedly gave his now famous quote, “*I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.*” A line from an English author, **Joseph Addison’s** 1713 play, *Cato*, may have inspired his words. The line from the play reads,

“What a pity it is

That we can die but once to serve our country.”

Scholars believe that the British denied Captain Hale’s request to write his family and to read a Bible before his death. I suppose the soldiers enjoyed tormenting the young Patriot. Don’t forget that the soldiers of Jesus’ time tortured Him before His execution, too. Nathan Hale was in good company.

Hale’s martyrdom for the cause of Liberty sent shockwaves through the Continental Army. Rather than intimidating the troops to quit their fight, Hale’s death empowered them to fight harder. The Army exhibited more courage, not less, after the Captain’s execution.

If the story of Nathan Hale is accurate, we know he faced death courageously. He did not cower before his adversaries but spoke with honor. He knew that in a few moments, he would enter the presence of God for eternity and went without fear. His conduct and final words were a slap to the British. Don't you wonder what those British soldiers thought as they heard his words and watched his daring actions?

Nathan Hale is another example of those who sacrificed their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. His demise reminds me of the commitment of the Apostle Paul in **Philippians 3:13-14** (NKJV):

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended [or laid hold of it]; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Nathan Hale's nephew, well-known author, **Edward Everett Hale** wrote what I take as a tribute to his uncle.

We are God's children, you and I, and we have our duties. . . . Thank God I come from men who are not afraid to die in battle."

The current despotic regime calls conservative patriots "terrorists." These patriots are the people who go to church, follow the Constitution, honor our genuine history, and want to *Make America Great Again* and lift it from the delusional abyss where it currently resides. This view is the same that King George III had of courageous American Patriots like Nathan Hale, and the King's solution was to kill those rebels. Is that not the same attitude as the current administration?

Nathan Hale could not know the outcome of the War and the aid of his sacrifice, but he risked all for a cause greater than himself. Christian Patriots cannot understand the by-products of their service but can know the outcome – we win because of Jesus! Nathan Hale would tell us not to fear and quit; the cause is too great, and the rewards are many.

The enemy wants to imprison us in his tyranny and discourage us from trusting God, and he wants to dominate us with fear and intimidation. Let us live without fear or regret. One day our end will come, and how will we finish with confidence and courage or regret and remorse?

Keep The Light of *No Regret* Burning!

GodNAmerica.com

GodNAmerica@gmail.com

405.361.3123