

"RAGGED OLD FLAG"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The following article came to me recently and I contended that I should pass it on to the oldies. It has been slightly edited.

I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench an old man was sittin' there.

I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run-down."

He said, "Oh, it'll do for our little town."

I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit."

"And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it."

He said, "Have a seat." And I sat down. "Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"

I said, "I think it is."

He said, "Folks around here don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."

You see we got a little hole in that flag there when Washington took it across the Delaware.

And it got powder burned the night that Francis Scott Key, sat watching it, writing, "Say can you see?"

And it got a bad rip in New Orleans, with Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams.

And it almost fell at the Alamo,

Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on though.

She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville,

And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.

There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg,

And the South wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag.

On Flander's Field in World War I

She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.

She turned blood red in World War II

She hung limp, and low a time or two.

She was in Korea and Viet Nam,

She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.

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She waved from our ships upon the briny foam,
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.

In her own good land here she's been abused,

She's been burned, dishonored, denied, refused,

And the government for which she stands,

Is scandalized throughout the land's.

She's getting thread-bare and she's wearing thin,

But she's still in good shape for the shape she's in.

'Cause she's been through the fire before,

And I believe she can take a whole lot more.

So we raise her up every morning,

We take her down every night. We don't let her touch

the ground, and we fold her up right.

On second thought, I do like to brag, "Cause I'm

mighty proud of that RAGGED OLD FLAG."

(J. R. Cash)

The next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

God is in need of many more "Christians" to share this gospel message. Will we answer the call to be a "Christian"? If we had more "Christians" the world would be a better place to live and there would be more people to help share the Word about Jesus. Now, the Bible's plan of salvation is very plain. The Book Of Acts teaches that one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)

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