

**Sermon #18**

**"A True Veteran of War"**

**Acts 20-23**

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**Introduction:** The *Veterans of Foreign Wars* of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.4 million members in approximately 9,000 Posts worldwide. Its mission is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, and a strong national defense.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899. That year, Veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In 1913, the American Veterans of Foreign Service changed their name to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Annually, VFW members and its Auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism in the community, and provide \$2.5 million in college scholarships to high school students every year to encouraging elevation of the Veterans Administration to the president's cabinet, the VFW is there—"honoring the dead by helping the living." [1]

If there was a spiritual VFW, the apostle Paul would, without question, be a Hall of Fame inductee. He was a true veteran of war, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Someone has well said, "The machinery of this old world would run a lot more smoothly if the oil of appreciation were applied more often."

On this day, we show our appreciation for those who have paid the price so that we could enjoy the level of life we enjoy. And I think a great example of a true veteran of war is the apostle Paul.

**Outline**

**1. His Dedicated Service!**

A) *His Labor in the Work of God*

1) His Method

2) His Message

3) His Motive

B) *His Love for the People of God*

**2. His Demonstrated Service!**

A) *False Accusation*

B) *Fierce Persecution*

**3. His Decorated Service!**

A) *A Life that was Pure*

B) *A Lord that was Present*

1) A Word of Courage

2) A Word of Commendation

3) A Word of Confidence

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