



Tuesday, 11/29/16

## HOPE IN GOD; NOT IN MILITARY MIGHT

READING: Psalm 33:13-19, 20-22; Proverbs 21:31

"This tank is the best in the world. No other tank can beat it."

And so I was introduced to my first M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. After four years of training in college to learn to be an officer, and then months of other work as a new Second Lieutenant of Armor, I *finally* was getting "hands-on" learning of the tank at the Officer Basic Course. THIS was THE day! You could tell all of us new officers were excited, "we're finally getting to the good stuff!"

And it was good! We spent weeks on the tanks—learning how to maintain them, how to shoot them, how to employ fire and movement in an audacious manner and intimidate the enemy just like cavalry charges of old used to do. And after seeing what the tank could do—it's powerful jet turbine engine taking a 70 ton computerized cannon up hills, shooting targets while the tank was stationary and on the move at distances that I considered a good distance for a run workout, and armed to the teeth with multiple machine guns—we felt *invincible*.

Which is a dangerous place to be spiritually.

Our hope rested in our machine—the modern day "war horse." As powerful as the tank is, it failed. It failed mechanically at times, but it also failed to provide true purpose and meaning. It was truly fun to be on tanks, but just as sin can tempt us with the illusory promise of something better than what we currently have and might be fun at the time, sin can never fulfill our deepest needs and leads only to death.

As an armored cavalryman, I have for years claimed Proverbs 21:31 as my life verse to remind me of the Lord's "steadfast love" David speaks of in Psalm 33:22. I owe the Lord my best, and glorify Him by being excellent in my work. BUT...victory comes from God! I must trust in Him as my true Shield and Salvation. No amount of American military firepower will be able to provide spiritual victory.

May our faith and hope be fully placed in the Lord's salvation, which provided the Ultimate Victory by sending His Son to this earth to die for our sins so many years ago.

-Colin Wooten