



Standard of a Man

A “standard” references the banner or flag that someone would ride behind or under. Each flag would represent a specific king. For a knight, it would represent the king he served. The American flag is the standard that we take into battle. It represents freedom and liberty. The crest you see before you is what sits upon the standard of men. I want to explain its pieces, as they are all there heavy with meaning.

The Shield. A Praetorian shield symbolizes the way you fight a battle. This shield by itself is not of much value, but when locked with the men on your right and left, forming a phalanx, it becomes impenetrable. In the same way, you cannot walk this journey alone. You need a community of men beside you to help you up, encourage you when you are weak, and guard your flank. On the shield, you will notice a cross. This cross represents the King that we live and willingly would die for. It represents the cross of Jesus Christ. The red symbolizes his blood and the white reminds us of what we are because of his blood. If you look closely, you will notice that this shield is not shiny and polished; it is beaten, battered and used because this is not an easy path we walk. There is a real enemy and the battle is ragging. Do not be deceived; we are still at war.

The Crossed Swords. The two swords represent the swords with which we wage battle. The first sword is the infallible Word of God. We study it and memorize it so that we may quote it to defeat the enemy. The second sword is the weapon of prayer. We pray that God’s will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. We bring the concerns of our hearts before Him, but above our own concerns, we desire His name to be glorified. It is with these two weapons we fight the enemy, protect our brothers on our flanks, and lead our families.

The Spartan Helmet. The helmet reminds us as men that just as the Spartans saw battle in every aspect of life, we too must see all of life through the window of the transcendent cause. We must sift everything for its truth and purity in accordance to God’s Word. This is not a life of compartments and closets. All is known and all will be made known. Every part of our life matters.

The Scroll. Along the bottom of the shield, there is a scroll that reads “Walk with the King”. Written in Greek, it reminds us of the language of the New Testament. The phrase reminds us of our purpose; the ultimate course of life that will not vanish when we stand before judgment. It reminds us to “fear God and keep His commandments.”