

The Lord's Memorial Day

Ex 12:14

1 Cor 11:24-25

Intro: There are two views on how Memorial Day came to be. 1. In April 1863, in Columbus, Mississippi after decorating graves of her two sons who served during the Civil War as Confederate soldiers, an elderly woman also decorated two mounds at the corner of the cemetery. An observer asked, *"What are you doing? Those are the graves of two Union soldiers."* Her reply, *"I know. I also know that somewhere in the North, a mother or a young wife mourns for them as we do for ours."* That elderly woman and a small band of ladies just like her set in motion what became Memorial Day.

View #2. The custom of placing flowers on the graves of the war began on May 5, 1866 in Waterloo, New York, and Waterloo has been recognized by Congress as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. In 1868, General John A. Logan, then president of the Grand Army of the Republic, declared that May 30 would be a day to *"decorate with flowers the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."* After World War I the day was set aside to honor all of the American wars, and the custom was extended to pay homage to deceased relatives and friends, both military and civilian. . Regardless of which one of these two really is the origin of Memorial Day one can scarce deny we need it, listen to these statistics regarding the number of Americans who have died in our wars:

In the Revolutionary War 33,000 soldiers died; in the War of 1812 7,000 soldiers died; in the Mexican War 13,000 perished; during the Civil War 980,000 men died; in the Spanish-American War 4,000 died; in World War I 320,000 U.S. soldiers gave their lives;

in World War II 1,078,000 died; in the Korean War 157,000 soldiers perished; during the Vietnam War 111,000 of our men died; in the first Gulf War there were 700; and in the War in Iraq there have been about 3,500 deaths. A total of these figures reveal that there have been an estimated 2,707,200 U.S. soldiers who have died over the past two centuries fighting for our country's freedom, and this is the reason that they died – for "our" freedom. All across this country American's will come together to commemorate their actions with ceremonies honoring them and the sacrifices they made.

Memorial Day is set aside each year to remember those who gave their lives in the armed forces. We remember those who died on far away battle fields to bring freedom and democracy to oppressed peoples

God established a **Memorial Day** for the Jew and he called that **Memorial Day Passover**. Let's read how he established his **Memorial Day**

[Read Ex 12:14/Pray/dismiss Jr. Church]

About 1500 years after God established his **Memorial day**, Jesus established a **Memorial Day** for us when He established what we call the *Lord's Supper*. This **Memorial Day** is much more like our current **Memorial Day** than most would realize. Consider the following truths about the American Solder:

Think about it: The American Solder loves America, so much that they spend long years in FOREIGN LANDS far from her shores. They revere FREEDOM, yet they sacrifice their OWN so that others may be FREE. They DEFEND their own right to live as INDIVIDUALS, yet

SURRENDERED their INDIVIDUALITY when they JOINED the ARMED FORCES. Most ironic of all, they VALUE LIFE, yet so BRAVELY they ready themselves to DIE in the SERVICE of their COUNTRY.

How ironic it is and yet how illustrative of our Savior is their life, Now I am not comparing the American soldier to Christ, far from it, but their sacrifice illustrates what Christ did for us and what He means when he said, **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”** (John 15:13).

So as we take time out from our busy schedules lets remember not only the brave men and women who serve their country but let’s remember our Savior and what His sacrifice means to those of us who have received Him as our savior.

When we take time to remember our Savior’s Sacrifice it helps us...

1. **Remember The Past - What He Did For Us – Rom 5:5-9**
 - a. **He Showered His Divine Love on Us** Vv. 5-8
 - i. The soldiers throughout history so loved their country and that is why they willing serve
 1. It is their love for country that keeps them serving
 2. It is their love for their family that enables them to face the enemy
 - ii. Rom 5:5-6, 8, **“... because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**

1. The phrase **shed abroad** refers to a lavish outpouring to the point of overflowing
 2. God does not extend His **love** in measured drops but in immeasurable torrents
 3. By Virtue of this divine love there is an unbreakable chain that eternally binds believers to Christ
- iii. He not only **Showered His Divine Love on Us**
- b. **He Over Looked our faults**
 - i. Paul makes it so very clear in Romans 5 that it was God’s Love for us, **even before we were saved** that motived him to give his only begotten Son to die for us.
 - ii. There is no one here today who can claim no faults, **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”** (1John 1:8).
 - iii. Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all, **“...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”**
- c. **Paid Our Debt**
 - i. One of the most beautiful thoughts captured in Scripture is found in Romans 6:23, **“...the wages of sin is death;”** HERE IS WHAT MAKES THIS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT IN SCRIPTURE, **“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”**
 - ii. What a beautiful thought—God gave me; all of us a gift all we have to do is receive it
 - iii. That gift was eternal life—eternal life
 - iv. He paid a debt He didn’t owe so we wouldn’t have to pay a debt we couldn’t pay
- d. **He Set us Free**—Our text for today Ex 12:14 & 1Cor 11:24-25

- i. The official day of our freedom is July 4th, 1776 but it would not have been possible were it not for the sacrifices of those who died during the Revolutionary War—we would not have been able to keep it were it not for the sacrifices made by those ever since to defend it.
 1. As pointed out earlier, Jesus said, **“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends”** (John 15:13).
 2. It is true than many of the men & women died out of a sense of duty to their country,
 3. But obviously they also died out of their love for their family & friends
- ii. When God gave the Jew the *Memorial Day* called *Passover* he told them to keep so they would not forget how he delivered them out of bondage to the Egyptians
 1. The night of the Passover was when the Israelites were commanded to kill a lamb and spread its blood on the two door posts and lintel of their homes (Exodus 12:3, 7)
 2. A plague came and everyone who didn’t have the blood applied the first born of that household died.
 3. This was a for-shadow of our Salvation it represents our salvation from spiritual death by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ
- iii. The Soldiers believed that protecting and defending our freedom was worth the price—why else would they willing lay down their lives?
- iv. The same is true for our Christian Memorial Day—The Lord’s Supper.

1. In 1Cor 11:24-25, Paul was teaching about The Lord’s Supper; established for us to remember how God through Christ delivered us out of bondage to sin
2. Christ believed that the our salvation was worth the price of His Blood, **“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”** (1John 3:16).
3. Our Lord willingly laid down His life for each and everyone of us who are saved today
4. He did this to set us free from bondage to sin.

When we take time to remember our Savior’s Sacrifice it helps us Remember The Past - What He Did For Us; it also helps us to...

2. **Recognize The Present - What He is Doing in and through Us**
 - a. ***His is Working in us***—Phil 1:6
 - i. **“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”**
 - ii. There is no incompleteness in us because of what the Holy Spirit is doing in us
 - iii. Have you ever felt as though you aren’t making progress in your spiritual life?
 1. Remember when God starts a project, he completes it!
 2. As with the Philippians, God will help you grow in grace until he has completed his work in your life.
 3. When you are discouraged, remember that God won’t give up on you.
 4. He promises to finish the work he has begun.

5. When you feel incomplete, unfinished, or distressed by your shortcomings, remember and be confident in God's promise and provision.
 6. Don't let your present condition rob you of the joy of knowing Christ or keep you from growing closer to him
- iv. This working in us is call sanctification
1. Sanctification is our being Made Holy
 2. When we receive salvation through Jesus Christ, we enter a spiritual love relationship with God that lasts throughout all eternity
 3. Our spiritual security is not in our ability to live godly but in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to *make* us godly
 4. Again Rom 5:6 says that Christ died for the **"ungodly"** and I don't know about you but I didn't become godly when I got saved—no I was forgiven and the Holy Spirit dwelling in me is the only thing that makes me godly
- b. **He is Working Through us**—1 Cor 12:7
- i. ***"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal"***
 - ii. When Paul makes this statement it is in the middle of his teaching on gifts given by the Holy Spirit
 1. God is the source of all spiritual gifts
 2. Everyone has a gift
 3. These gifts are given according to His pleaser
 4. These gifts are for the purpose of strengthening the body of Christ—the church
 5. Everyone is expected to use that gift
 - iii. I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone—but if we truly love what Christ did for us on the cross and

- what He is doing in us to complete our sanctification then service is the expected outcome
1. But we need to remember that God is working through us to build a Godly Legacy
 2. This building we worship in is a legacy to those who have gone before us
 3. Today you are the ones building a legacy in the young
 4. They are watching you
 5. Titus 2:1-10 tells us that the, ***"...aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. ³The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.***
 6. Paul then tells Titus how he should conduct himself in the eyes of the young me, he should exhort them, ***⁶...to be sober minded. ⁷In all things showing himself as "a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. ⁹Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; ¹⁰Not purloining, but showing all good***

***fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of
God our Saviour in all things.***

- iv. The Holy Spirit is at work in all of us building a Godly legacy.

When we take time to remember our Savior's Sacrifice it helps us Remember The Past - What He Did For Us, Recognize The Present - What He is Doing in and through Us; it also helps to...

3. Reassures Us of The Future – What He Will Do For Us—1 Thess 4:13-18

- a. ***He is coming for us***
- b. ***“¹³But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep...¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵...we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸Wherefore comfort one another with these words”***
 - i. All who believe in Christ will live with him forever.
 - ii. All who belong to Jesus Christ—throughout history—will be present with him at his second coming.
 - iii. No matter how bad the situation or bleak the outlook, we can take heart, knowing that our future is secure in Christ.

- iv. We can be confident that at death or at the Second Coming, we will be with loved ones who also have trusted in Christ.
- c. ***He not only coming for us but some day we will reign with Him***
 - i. 2 Tim 2:12, ***“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him”***
 - ii. Rev 20:5, ***“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”***
 - iii. ***“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. ¹¹Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences” (2Cor 5:10).***
 - iv. ***“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (1Cor 3:13-15).***
- d. What all this means is that—one day the Lord will call us to Himself
 - i. At the Second Coming, those who have been faithful, as judged by God himself, will receive praise and reward from him.
 - ii. What a comfort it is to know that I will not have to suffer through that horrible time know as the Tribulation and I’ll get to reign with him for a 1,000 years

- iii.* What a comfort to know that one day I will reign with Christ
- e. It won't be easy, 2 Tim 2:12 tells us that if we endure we will reign that means that since Christ endured the cross if we endure we will reign with Him
 - i.* This Christian walk is not an easy walk in the park—many have equated being a Christian as being one who is weak
 - ii.* Just the opposite is true—to be a Christian is the hardest thing I have ever had to do
 - iii.* Thank God that I have the Holy Spirit of God living in me working through me to enable me to endure.

Conclusion: There may be someone here today who are not able to remember what God did for them because they have never trusted Christ as their savior—let's make this a **Memorial Day** that you will never forget but coming and receiving Christ as your savior

The rest of us let's **Remember What He Did For Us, What He is Doing in and through Us & What He Will Do For Us in the future.**