

The Memorial Day - 05/26/19

TEXT – John 15:12-13 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

INTRO – At a military funeral a flag is presented to the deceased widow or family member with the statement - On behalf of the President of the United States and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's service to our Country.

- **Memorial Day is unique to our nation.**

1. The Memorial Day observance was begun during the Civil War.
2. "Some concerned women decided to decorate the graves of those who had bravely given their lives in the war between the states."

- **The day is intended to remind us** of those who have given themselves, shed their blood, and lay down their lives in military battle for the cause of freedom in our land."
- If not for these **brave men and women** we would not be sitting in this auditorium today.
- **A memorial is anything that helps us remember.**
- There are some important truths we should remember this Memorial Day weekend.

1. The gospel of **John 15:12-14** reminds us why we have Memorial Day.
2. The greatest sacrifice is the one laying down his life for another.
3. Because of this we should be reminded that freedom has a price

As Christian, we celebrate Memorial Day today for a couple of reasons:

- 1) **Romans 13:7** commands us to give honor to whom honor is due.
- 2) This day also helps us in thanking God for the freedoms we enjoy as a result of the extreme sacrifice made by so many Americans.

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

So as we remember the sacrifice of others, it is appropriate to thank God who strengthened those who made that **sacrifice** possible.

Noah Webster defined "sacrifice" = to destroy, surrender or suffer to be lost for the sake of obtaining something (of greater good?).

The concept of sacrifice evokes different responses from people. Generally speaking, the reality of sacrifice is something of which this generation of Americans is sadly ignorant.

One unmistakable proof is the breakdown of the family unit taking place at an alarming rate. Sacrifice is necessary for any marriage to be successful.

Eph 5:25 Husbands are to love their wives AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH.

We should remember the sacrifice of fallen soldiers.

However, there is an even greater neglect of sacrifice.

The ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was to provide spiritual freedom.

Isa 53:1-12 *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the . .*

Rom 5:6-10 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

I. The Depth of God's Sacrifice (v. 6)

Inherent in the concept of sacrifice is the question, "How far will I go?" "To what degree will I sacrifice?"

When an individual enlists in the military, especially during times of war, he or she must be cognizant that the answer they may have to give to the question, "How far should I go?" is "all the way," i.e. to the death.

I sincerely doubt there exists an adequate illustration in our natural world that communicates the depths to which Christ went in giving His life for mankind.

Php 2:6-8 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

- **Four descriptions of our spiritual bondage.**

- A. **"Yet without strength" (v. 6) = helpless, powerless**

We were incapable of generating any righteousness for ourselves.

We are powerless to perform all the commandments of God.

- B. **"Ungodly" (v. 6)**

Psa 14:1-3 *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Everything that "ungodly" represents is the opposite of the nature of God.

Rom 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

C. “Sinners” (v. 8)

“sinners” (?wicked?; **Rom 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Paul here was contrasting the worth of the life laid down, Jesus Christ's, and the unworthiness of those who benefit from His sacrifice. His provision of His own Son as our Savior demonstrated the depth of His love (**John 3:16**). No matter how great the mountain of sins, the love of Christ surpasses it. There is no sin or number of sins that the death of Christ cannot cover.

D. The fourth and most indicting term used to describe those for whom Christ died is “enemies.”

People are not only helpless to save themselves (v. 6), neglectful of God (v. 6), and wicked (v. 8), but they also set themselves against. Even though many unsaved people profess to love God, God sees their opposition to Himself.

II. Deliverance Provided through God’s Sacrifice

Sacrifice implies the improvement of, or benefit for another. Thousands of soldiers have given their lives to preserve our freedom in America. .

A. Deliverance from future condemnation (v. 9)

“saved from wrath” **I Thess 1:8-9**

B. Present salvation (v. 10)

Reconcile = know God, no longer an enemy, now a friend.

III. Response to God’s Sacrifice

Indifference best describes the response of many Americans to the sacrifice made to secure personal freedom.

John 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

The shackles of spiritual bondage can be broken and we can become free.

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