



- What do you think of when you think of Memorial Day - the beginning of summer vacation, barbecues in the back yard, family gettogethers?
- In the religious world Memorial Day is mostly ignored because it is not one of the "holy holidays" on the church calendar. But it is good for us to consider what Memorial Day really represents, for its very name calls us to remember.

- The ability to remember is a wonderful gift God has given us.
- In a flash we can be a child again, skipping rocks across a pond, or walking in a meadow.
- Through memory we can fall in love, get married, & enjoy our children all over again. All this is possible through the blessing of memory.

 Some of our memories are happy as we recall wonderful experiences. But some are sad, & we may weep as we remember them.

Memories are also very practical. If we couldn't remember that a red light means "stop" we'd be in trouble, or that the stove was hot right after use we would be burned.

- This is why the value of memorial day is so important to us as Americans and as God's Children.
- We owe the freedom that we enjoy to the brave men and women who have selflessly given their lives so that we could have those BBQ's work where we want, live where we want, and do what we want.

- Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America.
- It is observed every year on the last Monday of May and originated following the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died during that dreadful war that claimed more than 498,000 lives.
- Today Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died during military service.

 This Holiday helps us focus upon Christ, and recalls similar words of selfless sacrifice upon which we reflect every Lord's Day:

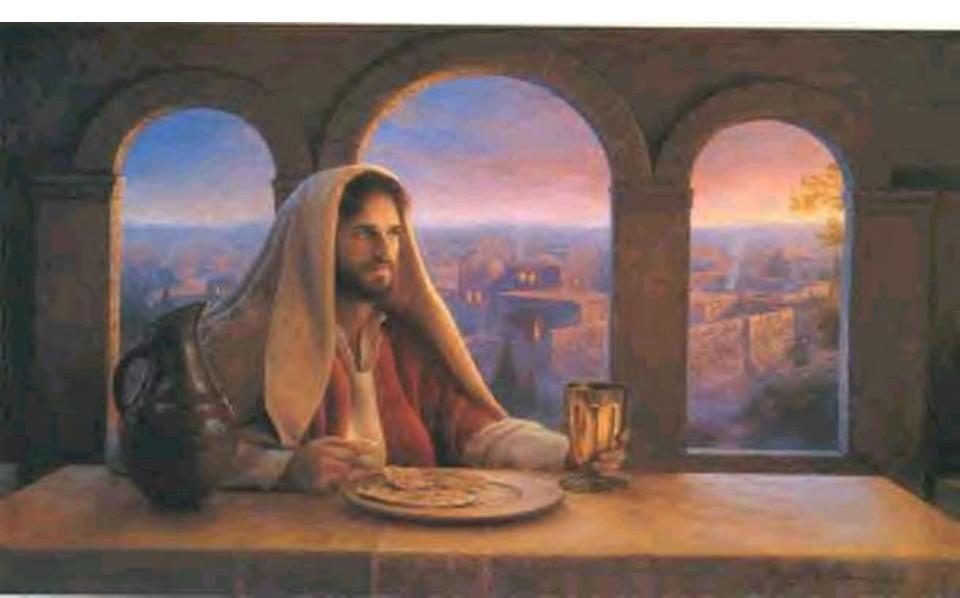
"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "**This** is My body which is given for you; <u>do this in</u> <u>remembrance</u> of Me."

~ Luke 22:19

• Today as we remember and pay tribute to the scores of our fallen heroes, let us remember

- 1. Our Fallen Savior
- 2. We Are Soldiers of Christ
- 3. Those Soldiers of Christ Who Have Passed On

Our Fallen Savior



- When We Remember Christ, what often comes to mind?
- For most people the thoughts go directly to the cross at Calvary, or perhaps His miracles or His teachings.
- However, do we remember other things that define Jesus and His ministry?

- Do We Remember that He is God in the Flesh?
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

~ John 1:1-5

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

~ John 1:10-14

• Do We Remember That He Left Heaven For Us?

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

~ Philippians 2:5-8

• Do We Remember That He Prayed For Us?

- In The Garden of Gethsemane Jesus Prayed for Three Different Parties
 - 1. Himself (John 17:1-5)
 - 2. His Disciples (John 17:6-19)
 - 3. For You (John 17:20-26)

I do not pray for these alone, **but also for those** who will believe in Me through their word; hat they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them (Philippians 3:20), that they may be one just as We are one: (continued)

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

~ John 17:20-24

- 1. His Prayer is for ALL who believe through the Word.
- 2. That we be glorified in the same way Christ is Glorified (Philippians 3:20-21).
- 3. That we know God Loves Us.
- 4. That we be in Heaven with Him

• Do We Remember How He Asked Us to Partake of the Emblems in His Memory?

• As People we are forgetful by nature.

 The impact of something has a way of wearing off very quickly because the world send so much our way so quickly.

• Yet in the Upper Room Jesus Tell Us:

"Do This In Remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19)

- 1. The Bread = His Body Broken for You
- 2. The Fruit of The Vine = His Blood Shed For You

- We cannot afford to forget the gravity of God's Sacrifice through His Son.
- We cannot afford to forget the pain, anguish, suffering, and blood spilled to free us from Sin.
- That's why we do this every day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20; 16:1)



CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

When Most People Think of Soldiers They Typically Think of This...



Yet The Soldiers That God Needs Us to Be Look More Like This

EVERYDAY PEOPLE



Who Are Children of God in Christ

• We do not wield physical weapons because:

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

~ 2 Corinthians 10:4

But Jesus said to him, "**Put your sword** in its place, for all who take the **sword** will perish by the **sword**.

~ Matthew 26:52

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

~ Ephesians 6:12

"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

~ John 18:36

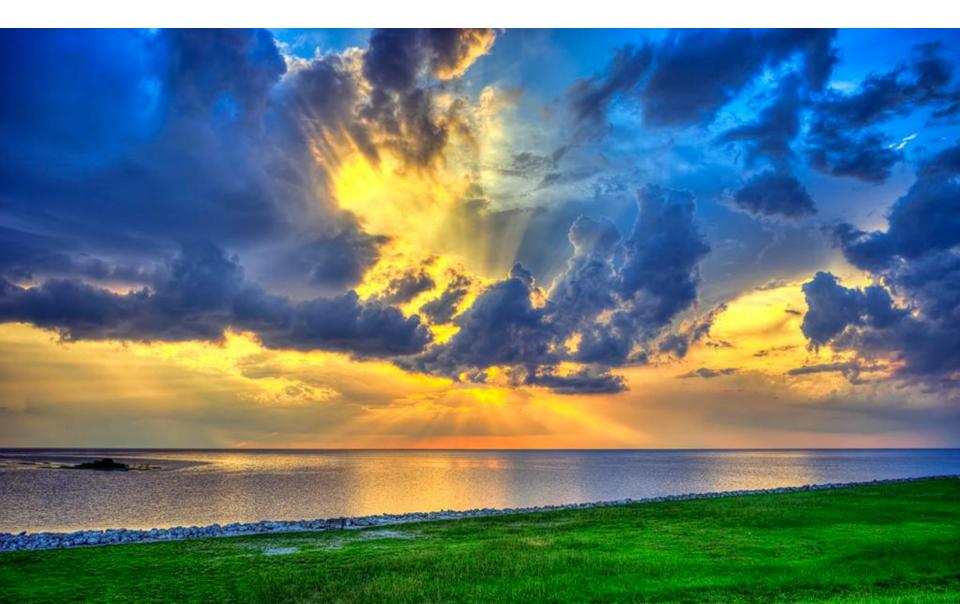
• As Soldiers We Do Not Destroy Our Enemies, We Pray For Them and Try To Save Them...

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven

~ Matthew 5:44-45a

- The Armor and Weapons We Wield are Spiritual (Ephesians 6:13)
- Girding our Waist With Truth (6:14)
- The Breastplate of Righteousness (6:14)
- Feet Wearing and carrying the Gospel (6:15)
- Shield of Faith (6:16)
- Helmet of Salvation (6:16)
- The Sword of the Spirit which is <u>the Word of God</u> (6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

Remembering Those Who Have Passed



 When we reach the end of our journey, when our race is complete and we are ready to leave this life...

• Do we not want to do so uttering the words spoken by Christ, and the Apostle Paul...

"I have glorified you on earth, I have finished the work which you have given me to do."

~ John 17:4

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. ~ 2 Timothy 4:7-8

- Those who have gone on before us, who left this world belonging to Christ are waiting for us in Paradise (Luke 23:43).
- Their work is done, their race is over, their crown awaits them while they await us.
- Let us finish our race and our work so that we may be as Paul describes:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

 On this Holiday known as Memorial Day we owe more than we can ever repay to the men and women who have died for our freedom in foreign lands.

 Likewise, as it relates to our souls we owe more than we can fathom to Jesus Christ who died for each and every one of us.

• As Christians we should always remember that we have a Savior who died for our sins.

• That We are soldiers in a spiritual army that wields a mighty weapon of peace and life.

• That those who have passed on as children of God await their reward, and so should we.

Why Not Today Enlist Today

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:57

In the Greatest Army Who Is Already Victorious