

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

MAY 30, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

There are 10 US Federal holidays, all of which have one thing that sets the day apart from the other 364 days of the year. January 18, 21 Martin Luther King Jr.; February 15, George Washington's birthday; tomorrow, Memorial Day honors the men and women that gave their lives for country.

WHY MEMORIAL DAYS?

1. Our tendency to forget. **PSALMS 78:10-11, 103:2**
 - A. An elderly woman told her elderly sister she was going up to bed. Halfway up she stopped to catch her breath, stood for a moment and said "was I going up or down?" "You were going up to bed!"
2. God used the practice.
 - A. Noah's rainbow (judgment and promise); Passover Feast (judgment and deliverance); 12 stones (crossing Jordan); the Lords Supper (remembering Jesus).

FREEDOMS COST – JOHN 15:13

We live in a free country. Our freedom was God-given and preserved by men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we might remain free. Memorial Day to some, is difficult. To others, it's a three-day weekend that kicks off summer. Pools will open, grills will be fired up, and families will gather, but how many will remember the reason for the day off? Memorial Day marks a day of sacrifice, when we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

- Civil war (600,000); WW1 (116,000); WW11 (400,000); Viet Nam (58,000); Korean (36,000); Revolutionary (25,000); 1812 (20,000); Mexican-American (13,000); Terror (7,000); Spanish-American (2,000); Gulf (258). No matter what our position is on war, we owe a debt of gratitude to every individual that paid the ultimate price for our freedoms. Memorial Day is for slowing down and reflecting on the sacrifice these individuals made, not for opening pools and getting a day off from work.

GALATIANS 5:1

Today, I want to single out another great soldier who took up arms, stepped on a battlefield and won the greatest victory ever won. This soldier gave His life not for a nation, but for all humanity.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

The Lord's supper is a memorial ceremony reminding us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for all humanity. We are to remember:

1. His appearing. **1 TIMOTHY 3:16**
 - A. He stepped out of eternity into time and laid aside His heavenly garments for flesh. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**
 - B. He left a place of perfection, free from sin, pain, suffering and sorrow, where He was worshiped, honored and exalted.
2. His accomplishments. His perfect:
 - A. Service – **MATTHEW 3:17**
 - B. Sacrifice – **HEBREWS 10:12**
 - C. Salvation – **ROMANS 1:16-17**
3. His ascension.
 - A. The glory of it. **HEBREWS 1:3**
 - B. The grace of it. **HEBREWS 7:25** He's our friend in high places.
 - C. The gravity of it. **ACTS 1:11** He's coming again, in the rapture, and His second coming.

CONCLUSION: Tomorrow we honor the memory of those who died to guarantee our freedom as Americans. We also honor the one who made the ultimate sacrifice to guarantee our eternal freedom from the penalty, power and presence of sin.