

MEMORIAL LIFE

(2 Cor. 5:13-21)

Introduction:

1. Tomorrow is Memorial Day in America. Memorial Day began as Decoration Day after the Civil War in 1868, a day set aside to decorate the graves of Union war dead (Wikipedia).
2. Memorial day is to serve as a reminder of not only the fallen, but also the cause for which they fell.
3. Let us consider the fact that the life of a Christian ought to be a memorial life.

Discussion:

I. The cloud that surrounds us (Heb. 11:1-12:1).

- A. Abel (v4) was killed for no other reason than his faithfulness to God and His word..
- B. Enoch (v5) was taken up by God because of his faithfulness.
- C. Noah (v7) spent 100 years of his life building the ark in the midst of a most wicked world, yet his complete faithfulness preserved the world.
- D. Abraham and Sarah (vv 8-19) left their home country and lived their whole lives in tents as strangers in a strange land, only owning the land they would be buried in. They waited on the promises of God and grew in their faith, not receiving the fullness of the promises until their death.
- E. Isaac (v20) blessed Isaac and Esau, the two great nations of Israel and Edom.
- F. Jacob (v21) blessed the sons of Joseph with the double portion of land.
- G. Joseph (v22) reminded the children of Israel of the promises of God upon his deathbed.
- H. Moses (vv 23-29) began with the faith of his parents but continued in his rejecting Egyptian citizenship for Israelite. His faith grew in his returning to Egypt to bring out God's people across the Red Sea into the wilderness.
- I. Joshua (v30), although not mentioned by name was the leader of Israel when Jericho was taken.
- J. Rahab (v31), although a harlot in Jericho was saved and added to Israel because of her faith.
- K. Gideon (v32) who led Israel in overthrowing their Midianite overlords.
- L. Barak (v32) who followed Deborah and was able to defeat the Canaanites under General Sisera.
- M. Samson (v32) who was a constant foil against the Philistines.
- N. Jephthah (v32) who from humble beginnings led Israel to victory over the Ammonites.
- O. David (v32) the man after God's own heart who led Israel as king for 40 years.
- P. Samuel (v32) the faithful prophet of God who united Israel and eventually anointed David as king.
- Q. The prophets (v32)...those who spoke the word of God to the people no matter what they faced.
- R. Consider all that these forerunners bore (vv 33-12:1).

II. The apostles of our Lord.

- A. They left all to follow the Lord (John 1:35ff; Matt. 4:18-22; 19:27-29).
- B. They grew in their faith day-by-day, and with the exception of Judas remained faithful unto death. Secular history tells us that all but John, the son of Zebedee, were martyred for their faith.
 1. Peter and Paul are believed to have both been martyred in Rome; Paul was beheaded and Peter crucified upside down.
 2. Andrew, Peter's brother, was crucified on an "X" cross in Eurasia.
 3. Thomas is believed to have been stabbed to death by four spearman in India.
 4. Philip is believed to have been tortured to death in Carthage.
 5. Matthew is believed to have been stabbed to death in Ethiopia.
 6. Bartholomew traveled all over and there are various accounts of his death in various places in various ways.
 7. James, the son of Alphaes, is believed to have been stoned and then clubbed to death in Syria.
 8. Simon the Zealot is believed to have been killed in Persia.

9. Matthias, the apostle who replaced Judas, is believed to have been burned to death in Syria.
 10. James, the son of Zebedee, was killed by the sword at the order of Herod (Acts 12:2).
 11. Thaddeus (aka Jude) is believed to have been beheaded in Syria.
- C. They served faithfully unto death as the witnesses of all God has done for us in Christ. They spent their lives that we might have the knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 1:12-15).

III. Our Lord.

- A. Jesus created us and all that we have (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16).
- B. Jesus came in the flesh to pay the price for our sin and set us free (John 1:9-14; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 John 2:2).
- C. Jesus rose from the dead for us (Rom. 4:25; Heb. 6:19, 20).

IV. The Response.

- A. In many ways the cloud of witnesses and the apostles lived and died on our behalf (1 Cor. 10:11). What will our response be?
- B. Our great and glorious God came in the flesh and died in our place. Now, in heaven He beacons we come to Him that He might save us. What will our response be?

Conclusion:

1. Jesus spilt His blood for you and for me, what will you do with it? Will you trample it and consider it a common thing (Heb. 10:29), or will you allow it to transform you into a child of God?
2. Paul explained it so clearly in Gal. 2:20; will we follow his example?
3. Invitation.

2017 SPIRITUAL MENU: HELP YOURSELVES!!				
YEAR	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
2017	June	Jamestown Church Picnic	TBA	
2017	June 18-23	Virginia Christian Camp	Christiansburg, VA	
2017	July 28-30?	In-House Seminar	Jamestown, NY	Family: The Divine Institution of God
2017	July 21-23	Eric Lyons Gospel Meeting	Jamestown, NY	Is the Bible Reliable?
2017	August	VBS	Jamestown, NY	The Who, What, Why of Christianity
2017	Aug. 18-24	Polishing The Pulpit	Seveirville, TN	
2017	TBA	Ladies Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	27-Oct	Men's Retreat	Franklinville, NY	
2017	Oct. 22-26	WVSOP Lectureship	Moundsville, WV	
2017	Nov.	CBI Retreat	Columbia, TN	
More Items to come as they become known				