

Memorial Day 2018 – Build your Memorial Today

Memorial Day is a public legal holiday in the United States of America and among its armed forces worldwide.

It honors U.S. citizens who have died in war fighting for the freedom that we now enjoy.

This day was **originally** set aside to honor those who died in the Civil War and then **later** on it was expanded to include all those U.S. citizens who have died in any war defending our great country.

National observance is marked officially ***by the placing of a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier*** in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

- **The purpose of this holiday is said to be this:** *It is for the purpose of remembering and of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of our country. **It is a holiday for us to simply remember the price that was paid for our freedom.***

Memorial Day

I wonder though how many of us will remember ***what the holiday is for.***

I wonder if any of us will take the time on **Memorial Day** to think about those who gave their lives for our freedom.

In Washington D.C., there stands a stately monument called the **Lincoln Memorial.**

It honors **President Abraham Lincoln** and the virtues of tolerance, honesty, and faithfulness in the human spirit.

Designed by Henry Bacon the structure includes 36 columns, each 44 feet high, made of Colorado marble.

They surround the building one for each state that comprised the Union in Lincoln's time.

Inside, there sits a colossal **19-foot seated statue of Lincoln** that is made out of Georgia white marble.

It sits on a pedestal of Tennessee marble and was designed by Daniel Chester French and carved by the Piccirilli brothers of New York.

The statue dominates the interior and looks eastward across a reflecting pool at the Washington Monument and Capital.

On the south wall is inscribed Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and **on the north** wall is his second Inaugural Address.

Above are two paintings by Jules Guerin representing first "Reunion and Progress" and second "The Emancipation of a Race."

The cornerstone was laid in 1915 and it was completed and dedicated on Memorial Day in 1922.

We have the Lincoln Memorial to help us remember what a great man **President Lincoln** was and to help us remember the things that he accomplished while he was alive.

A memorial helps us keep a memory of something significant that has happened alive in our hearts and minds.

- ***All throughout the Bible God has ordained that there would be memorials.***

He has instituted the practice of building and having memorials in our life.

It is beneficial for us to remember the things that Jesus has done in each of our lives.

In a Biblical sense a memorial is a sacrifice, a monument or an event that **brings us into remembrance of something that God has done**.

The word memorial in scripture comes from a word that means to prick, to pierce, or to penetrate the memory.

So memorials are to aid man's memory in preserving what he cherishes the most.

The very first Passover was to be a memorial to the Jewish people forever.

It would serve to remind them how God spared their firstborn and how He delivered them from Egyptian bondage.

Exodus 12:12-14 - NKJV

¹² 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: ***I am the Lord.***

¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ '***So this day shall be to you a memorial;*** and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

- **Every Passover** that goes by **should be a reminder** to the Jewish people that **it could have been** their firstborn that died in the land of Egypt.
- **Every Passover** that goes by **should remind the Jewish people** of **how God delivered them** from bondage with a mighty hand.

The Israelites when they were in the wilderness were commanded to take a pot and fill it with manna.

They were instructed to do that **so they would not forget how God had provided for them.**

Exodus 16:32-35 - NKJV

³² Then Moses said, "This *is* the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

³³ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations."

³⁴ As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

- **God provided** food for them to eat **all of the years** that they were in the wilderness.

Then they came to **the Jordan River** and this is what we read about in our scripture text this morning.

Joshua 4:4-7

⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ **to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’** ⁷ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. **These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.**”

- **Joshua** commanded twelve stones to be taken out of the Jordan River and be **set up as a memorial** of **how God cut off the waters of the Jordan** and allowed them to pass over on dry ground.
- **He also set up twelve stones** in the middle of the Jordan River **to be a memorial** as well of **the mighty hand of God**.

He did this to keep it in their memory.

We must also build memorials in our life as well. It is something that keeps a memory alive as a lasting evidence of something notable.

- Has God ever healed your body? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**
- Has God ever delivered you from alcohol? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**
- Has God delivered you from drugs? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**

- Has God filled you with the Holy Ghost? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**
- Has God pulled you out of the deep miry clay and ***set your feet on the solid rock?*** **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**
- Has God ever met a financial need for you? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**
- Has God ever blessed you? **BUILD A MEMORIAL!**

Build a memorial of the great things that God has done for you in your life.

- ***He has been good to us.***
- He has blessed us beyond measure.
- When we didn't deserve it ***God was good to us....***

CLOSE:

Three reasons to build memorials

1. To increase your own faith.

- To many times we forget the things that God has done for us in the past so we have ***no faith for the future.***

2. To increase the faith of others.

- Build so that it will encourage others to have faith.
- **God** parted the Jordan for me and **he can do it for you.**

3. To give you victory over the devil.

- The devil will tell you that ***nothing happened.***
- You can point him back **to your memorial** and tell him God changed me here.

Calvary is our memorial!!!!