

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

MAY 30, 2021

MEMORIALS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

by Jim Stauffer

Memorials are a very important part of our lives. We are reminded of this as we observe our nation's Memorial Day. I saw a very fitting comment regarding the men who defend our nation. It stated we have, Armed Forces Day for those still in uniform. We have Veterans Day for those who hung up their uniform. And we have Memorial Day for those who never made it out of their uniform. We are touched by the lives of the men who laid down their lives in defense of their nation, that is we, the people. Let us grant them the honor due their great sacrifice and be thankful for their commitment that helped secure our freedom.

You see, their commitment allowed them to keep their vow to conduct themselves in defense of their nation by following the commands of superiors who planned such defense.

As we then ponder those who gave their lives for us, we cannot escape the greatest sacrifice of life of all time. *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

(Romans 5:8) We have a memorial for this occasion as well and for this occasion we memorialize the death of One Who died to give us life again, life we had sacrificed in the interest of sin and pleasure. As a result of the death of Christ on the cross, we have a hope of spending eternity in heaven with Him and our Father. While we do not want to diminish the sacrifices of soldiers in defense of country, there is no comparison between these two sacrifices. Jesus' death relates to eternal life, the other to a few more years on earth.

Maybe the greatest change that must take place in the mind of man is to value the difference between earthly life and eternal life. We read **Matthew 6:19-21** and see the difference between temporal and eternal. *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,*

where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Now let us direct our attention to the memorial we are instructed to observe for the death of our Savior. We first learn about sacrifices to God in the Old Testament. The sacrifice Jesus offered is the anti-type to the sacrifice under the Law of Moses. Let us notice the correlation in the sacrifice offered to ratify the Law of Moses and the sacrifice of our Lord. In **Exodus 24:5-11**, the people offered both burnt and peace offerings. Two actions were taken as ratification of the covenant God made on that occasion with His people. First, Moses took half the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled in on the altar. *Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people....* Following their commitment to keep all the words in that covenant, *he then took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.* Later in **verse 11**, the priests ate of the peace offering as a further ratification of the covenant it represented.

Now look at the similarities of the sacrifice of Christ. In **Matthew 26:28**, He says, *“for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”*

Now, while Jesus' sacrifice is the anti-type of sacrifices under the Old Law, it is the perfect anti-type of one specific sacrifice that enabled that Law to come about. The Passover sacrifice the night before Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. This story is related in **Exodus 12**. They were to take a lamb and when they killed it, to put the blood on the two doorposts and the

lintel of the house. They were to roast the lamb and eat it while they were dressed and prepared to leave. The purpose and the implications of it are stated in, **Exodus 12:13–14**, “*The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

‘Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.’ This Passover lamb and sacrifice are the type of Jesus’ sacrifice for the sins of man today. They were liberated from Egyptian bondage and we are liberated from the bondage of sin. The Passover lamb was sacrificed for their freedom as Christ is our Passover Lamb today (**1 Cor. 5:7**). Their eating of the lamb served to ratify God’s covenant to deliver them as does our eating of the emblems Jesus ordained to ratify our covenant with Him (**Hebrews 9:13-15**).

The blood of a lamb served to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage and the blood of Christ will deliver us from the bondage of sin if we will but ratify the covenant He has offered.

The final point we make concerning this great memorial is the communion with Christ that occurs with those who partake of this memorial feast (**1 Cor. 10:16**). We are further admonished to partake with appropriate reverence and dedication to Christ as we proclaim His death until He comes again (**1 Cor. 11:26-29**).

You Think You Have It Hard?

As we struggle with our daily walk, it is easy to start feeling sorry for ourselves. After all, we are trying to live pure lives in the midst of a very wicked world. There are temptations and trials on every hand. And, on top of that, if we take firm stands on moral or doctrinal principles some of our own brethren will likely brand us as ‘fanatical’ or ‘extreme.’ It’s often hard to do what is right under such circumstances.

But, wait! As we read our Bibles we see that God’s faithful people have always suffered for their convictions. The enemies of truth have consistently persecuted anyone who tried to do right. And, quite often, the strongest persecutions have come from people who claimed they were doing the will of God. Take a moment to recall how the prophets of the Old Testament were mistreated. Think about how the early Christians suffered for their faith. Recall the ultimate example — that of Jesus and how the Jewish leaders cried out to have

Him brutally murdered.

Furthermore, we should take note of the fact that there are many places in the world today where people are severely persecuted for trying to serve God. In China, “the communist government has called for the eradication of the independent Christian movement . . . believers are arrested for holding prayer meetings, preaching and distributing Bibles.” In Sudan, those who profess Christianity are being “crucified, kidnapped and often sold into slavery . . . Evidence suggests that entire male populations of villages have been crucified, including boys as young as nine years old.” In Saudi Arabia, people endure “severe beatings and imprisonment for professing their faith.” (all quotes via *Washington Watch*, a publication of Family Research Council).

Yes, it’s hard sometimes, but *“ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin” (Heb. 12:4). “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” (Deut. 31:6).* **by Greg Gwin; Beacon Electronic Edition**

Live in Memory of the Resurrection

Matt Hodge

What a beautiful day Easter was! It is great to enjoy the temperatures warming up and the Sun when it is out! As we think about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let’s not allow it to become a once-a-year event that we don’t give another thought to the rest of the year. The sacrificial, voluntary, death of the perfect Son of God who became flesh and his resurrection from the dead has forever changed the existence of humankind here on the Earth!

Jesus conquered sin’s ability to enslave us because he paid the price for sin - **Hebrews 2:14-15**. We can now be forgiven and start over! We just need to be inside of Christ to be united with the price he paid: his death. (**Romans 6:1-3**) When we become followers of Jesus, we can follow Jesus’s example of dying to our own desires and give ourselves to live for Him the rest of our lives! In **Romans 6:1-7**, being submerged in the waters of baptism unites a person with the death that Christ paid for sin, and coming up out of the water points to us being resurrected like Jesus was!

Let us remember and fulfill the resurrection of Christ the rest of the year by living for him as **2 Corinthians 5:15** says: *“and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”*

Because He Lives

Early on the first day of the week, certain women came to the tomb where Jesus had been laid and found the stone rolled away. As they stood there wondering what had happened, two men in dazzling clothing asked them why they were seeking the living one among the dead (**Luke 24:1-5**).

God sent his only begotten Son into this world to live for a short period of time and then through His death make it possible for us to be redeemed (**John 3:16; Rom/ 5:6-8; Col. 1:12-14**). Through the inspired pages of God's word we see Him as He goes city to city, village to village teaching and doing good (**Acts 1:1-3**). We watch as He heals all manner of sickness and disease, watch as He mends broken hearts. Then one day we hear the people cry out "*Crucify Him, Crucify Him*" (**Luke 23:13-21**). We watch as He is put on trial where He is treated shamefully, tormented, beaten and spat on. Then He is led away to a place called Golgotha where He is crucified (**John 19:16-18**). Later, He is taken down from the cross, placed in a tomb and a stone rolled into place to seal the tomb (**Matt. 27:58-66**). But that tomb could not hold the Son of God. The stone was rolled back and Jesus walked out of that tomb alive. Man put Him to death but God raised Him up to live again.

Hear John as he tells us to be impressed with the great love God has bestowed on us that we should be children of God (**1 John 3:1-3**). We have the privilege of being children of God because God did give His Son to die for us (**Rom. 5:8-9**) and Jesus did walk out of that tomb alive. God's love for us is really beyond human understanding. It reaches out to all men everywhere (**2 Peter 3:9**). His love is deeper than all our sorrows, deeper than all our sins, deeper than the grave itself (**Col. 1:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:50-57**). Here is God's guarantee that one day all of the injustices and inequalities of this earthly life will be made right. Here is God's promise that it matters not how long the struggle may be or how short, it matters not how painful the wounds of this life may be, one day all will be made right.

Each day I live, my heart overflows with rejoicing and thanksgiving because I know that He lives. I love the song, Because He lives: "God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal and forgive: He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives, Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives." Will we ever have heavy hearts? Will we ever be sad? Will fear and frustration ever strike our human frame? Will we ever feel that we

are in a hopeless situation? Yes. Yes, Yes--but there is no reason for us to allow ourselves to become consumed with heartache, sadness and loneliness. Because He lives, we have something to hold on to, it is our lifeline as we press on toward our eternal destiny (**John 14:1-3; Heb. 12:1-3; Isa. 40:28-31**). To God be the glory forever and ever!

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Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter answered, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (**Matthew 16:16**). A bit after that Jesus said, "*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...*" (**Matthew 16:19**).

In keys are the power to unlock and open. They give access and entrance. The one holding the keys is the one who has the authority to open. Peter, with the other apostles, was given authority to open the door of the kingdom, to give people access to the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 16:19** continues to explain that whatever they bound and loosed on earth was bound and loosed in heaven. Apostolic authority is here declared.

This declaration is fulfilled in a practical way in Acts chapter two, when Peter and the eleven began preaching the gospel in Jerusalem. As a result, about 3,000 souls were added on that day. What a story! You should read Acts chapter two. Let me know if you have any questions.

Don Bunting

SACRIFICE

It is said that Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire, once had captured a prince and his family. When they came before him, the monarch asked the prisoner, "What will you give me if I release you?" "The half of my wealth," was his reply. "And if I release your children?" "Everything I possess." "And if I release your wife?" "Your Majesty, I will give myself." Cyrus was so moved by his devotion that he freed them all. As they returned home, the prince said to his wife, "Wasn't Cyrus a handsome man!" With a look of deep love for her husband, she said to him, "I didn't notice. I could only keep my eyes on you- -the one who was willing to give himself for me."

Unknown

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Sunday Morning - Hebrews -
Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - Proverbs -
Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon:
David on Giving



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10