

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Memorial Day

(Jerry Fite)

May 5, 1868 General John A. Logan ordered the placement of flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers, and chose May 30 as the day for decorating the graves. It took World War I to unite the northern and southern states in remembering all those who have died in war defending our country. Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by congress in 1971 to be observed on the last Monday in May. Tomorrow many will have time off from work, hopefully to remember those who have died in defending our freedom.

Today, the first day of the week, is a memorial day for all Christians. We remember the death of Jesus Christ. We do not go to His grave to decorate it, for He is risen from the dead. Today, we partake of the supper He instituted in the first century in memory of His sacrifice.

During the celebration of the Passover feast, Jesus gathered his disciples and instituted the Lord's Supper. As they were eating, Jesus “took bread and when

He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.’ And the cup in like manner after supper saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, even that which is poured out for you.’” (Luke 22:19-20). The giving of His body and the pouring out of His blood pointed to man's remission of sins (Matthew 26:28), to be enjoyed under a new covenant with God.

Christians are to remember the purpose of Jesus' sacrifice as often as they partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine. Jesus gave His life so we could be free from sin's enslavement. The very first battle was the conflict between the flesh and the spirit. Eve gave into the temptation of the flesh and ignored the law her spirit knew as the truth of God (Genesis 3:1-6). Spiritual death is the wage paid, and all are “under sin” throughout the world (Romans 6:23, 3:9) because they too, like the first man and woman have sinned. Talk about World wars; Jesus died for man the world over to redeem all from sin. The pur-

chase price was his blood (I Peter 1:18-19).

Today is a memorial day remembering the uttermost sacrifice. As we partake we remember with thankfulness what Jesus did for us in dying for our sins. He gave his life so we could live. To be alive again, possessing a living hope, is the greatest of blessings after being dead and sin and hopeless. Jesus, who knew no sin became the sacrifice for sin so we could be righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). As we partake of the bread and fruit of the vine we proclaim the Lord's death with thankful indebtedness. (I Corinthians 11:26).

Tomorrow, we will take time to honor the fallen who gave their life for their family and friends. Jesus gave his life for his enemies. What love! “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ dies for us” (Romans 5:8). Today, and every first day of the week is the Christian's memorial day as we partake of the Lord's Supper and remember His great sacrifice (Acts 20:7).