

Remember When...

Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday Morning, May 25, 2014

Thesis:

Memorials Remind Us As Christians to Be Good Soldiers for Christ. That We Too May Become a Memorial of Encouragement to Others.

Introduction:

Coalinga Memorial Plaque *(Picture on PPT)*

Cathy's Memory Box *(Picture on PPT)*

I. A Memorial Set For You?

(Isaiah 56: 4 – 6)

4 For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,

5 Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.

6 "Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant—

Airborne Statue Story – (Picture on PPT)

There is a Statue at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA. It is dedicated to the "Airborne Soldier", who jumped out of planes to go fight battles or accomplish missions.

If Memorials were not important God wouldn't have commanded them.

Examples:

† Memorial Stones where the Israelites crossed the Jordan.

† Memorial Jar of Mann.

† Memorial of the Budding of the Rod of Aaron.

† Memorial tassels on Israelite clothing.

† Memorials through various feasts and festivals.

Take time to remember Him, His kindness, His grace, His mercy and His Provision.

II. Remember Memorials in Our Own Lives

John McCain POW Story - (Picture on PPT)

An article at U.S. News.com told a first person account of John McCain's time as a POW during the Vietnam War. Here are some excerpts from it:

Some North Vietnamese swam out and pulled me to the side of the lake and immediately started stripping me, which is their standard procedure. Of course, this being in the center of town, a huge crowd of people gathered, and they were all hollering and screaming and cursing and spitting and kicking at me. When they had most of my clothes off, I felt a twinge in my right knee. I sat up and looked at it, and my right foot was resting next to my left knee, just in a 90-degree position. I said, "My God--my leg!" That seemed to enrage them—I don't know why. One of them slammed a rifle butt down on my shoulder, and smashed it pretty badly. Another stuck a bayonet in my foot. The mob was really getting up-tight...During captivity his weight dropped as low as 100 pounds. He still walks with a limp from his injuries...They beat me around a little bit. I was in such bad shape that when they hit me it would knock me unconscious. They kept saying, "You will not receive any medical treatment until you talk."

† Do You Bear the Scars of Living for Christ?

† Have You Been Wounded From Standing for the Lord?

† Do You Fight for Christ?

† If So...It Shows Your Dedication & Love For the Lord.

(Galatians 6:17)

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

(Isaiah 53:5)

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our ini-quities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

III A Good Soldier. . . Is a Soldier Who Follows Commands
Christians Are Commanded to Follow Christ

(Mark 8:34) - When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

A Good Soldier is a Fighter, Taught to be Aggressive

(I Timothy 6:12) - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called & have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

A Good Soldier is Familiar with Strategy

(II Corinthians 2:11) - Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

A Good Soldier is Familiar With Skills

(Ephesians 6: 10 – 18) - 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

A Good Soldier is Familiar With Seeking Encouragement From His Friends

(Hebrews 10:25)

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

A Good Soldier is Faithful (no matter what)

(II Timothy 2:3)

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

Memorials Remind Us as Christians to Be Good Soldiers for Christ.
That We, Too, May Become a Memorial of Encouragement to Others!