

# An Exhortation to Remembrance

---

2 Peter 1:12-15

This is Memorial Day weekend—It is about remembering. Remembering is one of the most important things we do in life. Remembering is a way of holding onto what you never want to forget.

We are prone to forget. Therefore we are often admonished in the Bible to remember (text; 1 Tim. 4:6; 2 These. 2:5; Phil. 3:1; Jude 1:5).

I read a story other day, about a mother who was packing for their family vacation. As she was packing some luggage, her 4-year-old daughter was playing on the bed. At one point she said, "Mommy, look at this," and stuck out two of her fingers.

Trying to keep her daughter entertained, the mom reached out and stuck her fingers in her mouth and said, "Mommy's gonna eat your fingers!" pretending to eat them.

Her daughter then stared at her two fingers with a puzzled look. Her mother saw the look on her face and asked, "What's wrong honey?"

"Mommy, where's my booger?"

I bet that mother will never forget that meal!

➡ Memorial Day is a day when we should remember the value of human lives— Men and women who gave their life that we might have the life we enjoy today.

- Society today puts very little value on the human life. Mass killings... Abortions... Murders...
- We live in an age where people put more value on THINGS than they do on people.

➡ PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THINGS!

---

Ron was a tenth-grade student at Granger High School. It was game day, and he was the only sophomore suiting up with the varsity team. Ron's mother came to the game. When game was over she was waiting outside the locker room to drive Ron home.

Ron said, "What did you think of the game, Mom? Did you see the three touchdown passes we completed? And how about our tough defense? Did you see the fumble we recovered on the kickoff return?"

His mother simply said, "Ron, you were awesome.

- I was proud how you cheered your teammates.
- I liked how you patted number 19, number 5, and number 33 on the back when they came off the field.
- And I could tell you were perspiring in all those bulky pads because you drank eight cups of water.

"Mom, how do you know all that? And how can you say I was awesome? I didn't even play in the game."

His mother smiled. "Son, I don't know anything about football. I didn't come here to watch the game. I came to watch you, and you were great!"

That mother knew what was important—It wasn't the game. It was her son.

During the filming of the movie *"Marriage Italian Style,"* someone stole some jewelry from the trailer of Sophia Loren. She told the movie director, Vittorio De Sica, about the theft of her jewelry. He told her, "Listen to me, Sophia. I am much older than you and if there is one thing I've learned about life, it is this: NEVER CRY OVER ANYTHING THAT CANNOT CRY OVER YOU!" AMEN!

On this Memorial Day weekend, I want us to consider three things to help us learn the valuable lesson of remembrance. We need to:

## I. **LOOK BACK**

- A. Memorial Day is about LOOKING BACK! LOOKING BACK involves remembering—Remembering those who helped make our country great by paying the ultimate price of their lives.
- B. Some say we should not look back, but always look ahead.
  1. But, if we did not LOOK BACK, we could not learn from the mistakes we, and others have made. *"Remember Lot's wife."*
  2. If we did not LOOK BACK, we could not show our gratitude for those who have made such an investment and impact on our life. *"Remember the Alamo / Pearl Harbor / 9/11 /."*
- C. While some are partying and picnicking this Memorial Day, we need to LOOK BACK and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

➡Someone has well said, “You can say goodbye to me, but please do not say ‘good-bye’ to the thought of me.”

Today we need to LOOK BACK! But also we need to...

## II. LOOK OUT

➡As we LOOK BACK at those who made an impact on our life, we must not forget to LOOK OUT for those who are making an impact on our life today.

A. Paul put great importance on people who impacted his life. Paul named over 100 different people in his epistles who helped him. That Paul would remember 100 individuals BY NAME showed how much he valued people.

- How many people can you remember by name who have helped make a difference in your life?

B. Those who have really discovered what life is all about have learned to LOOK OUT and see the value they found in people.

We need to remember to LOOK BACK and LOOK OUT. But also we need to...

## III. LOOK UP (Luke 22:19- *“This is my body which is given for you: this do in REMEMBRANCE of me.”*)

➡On this Memorial Day weekend, we need also to LOOK UP and remember the Lord.

A. God instituted the annual “Passover.” It was a “picture” of what the Lord did for them (Ex. 12:14).

- Nobody takes pictures of things they want to forget. We take pictures of things - or people - we want to remember.

1. Each Hebrew family take a lamb for sacrifice.

- The Passover lamb had to be slain. It **typified** Christ, the Lamb of God who would shed His blood for the sins of the world.
- The blood of the lamb was applied to the doorposts of the home.

2. God was beginning a Memorial Day in the Passover that would “picture” the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

- Jesus shed His blood for the whole world.
- That blood must be applied to our sins individually.

- Jesus must be received personally for us to be saved from sin and judgment.
  - Only the ones with the blood applied escaped the judgment.
  - The blood of the Passover lamb was not put on the threshold of the door. It was not to be trampled on. Don't trample on the blood by rejecting the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. (Heb. 10:29)
3. In the New Testament, the Lord instituted the "**Lord's Supper**" so people remember what He had done for them.
- B. While we honor the men and women who gave their lives so we might be able to enjoy our life in our great country, we want to also honor the Lord Jesus who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can have eternal life.
- C. It is good for us to have a holiday to remind us that "freedom is not free." Our **Freedom**s came at a great price.
- But as we consider the price that was paid for our PHYSICAL FREEDOM, we must not forget the price Jesus paid for our SPIRITUAL FREEDOM—The Blood of Christ

**SUMMATION:** We need to take time on this Memorial Weekend to LOOK BACK... LOOK OUT... LOOK UP!

A man by the name of Milt Rood worked for many years as a car salesman in Spokane, WA. He was also very active with the Union Gospel Mission, working with juvenile delinquents. Week by week, he would patiently teach them the Word of God and pray with them and for them.

One day Milt Rood went into the hospital for exploratory surgery. The doctors found he was full of cancer. HE DIED THE NEXT WEEK.

After the funeral, a friend remarked, "IT'S INTERESTING THAT NO ONE AT THE FUNERAL ASKED HOW MANY CARS MILT SOLD!"

➡ One day, how many cars and homes you have will not matter. The only thing that will matter is have you looked to Jesus for salvation! What are you looking to?

*What will you be remembered for?*