

Staying Connected To God (Memo. Day)

Text : Deuteronomy 6: 1-15

INTRODUCTION :

A. This is Memorial Day weekend.

1. It was originally called “Decoration Day.”
 - a. A day when Southern women put flowers on the graves of Confederate soldiers.
 - b. The idea caught on in many places even in the North, but on different dates.
2. On May 5, 1881, Gen. John A. Logan of Murphysboro, Illinois issued a proclamation establishing May 30th of each year as a day to honor civil war dead.
 - a. That year 5000 people gathered at Arlington National Cemetery for a memorial.
 - b. Each grave was decorated with flowers and a small American flag.
 - c. As time passed, the day began to wane in popularity.
3. In 1971, it was made part of the Three Day Weekend Bill.
 - a. Many believe this had caused it to lose much of its significance.
 - b. Observance fell to the point that it became an issue in congress.
 - c. In 2000 President Clinton signed a declaration establish a “*moment of silence*” in memory of our fallen heroes to be observed in all place at 3:00 on Memorial Day.

B. It’s still “Decoration Day” where I come from and it’s still a big deal.

1. The family cemetery is cleaned and manicured. (*Someone always complains.*)
2. Family from near and far gathers under the trees, to catch up and tell the old stories.
3. Someone preaches a service. (*But he dare not do it for long.*)
4. A table set up which extends almost across the whole cemetery. (*Eat our weigh.*)

C. Now days, for most folks, Memorial Day is just a welcome holiday.

1. It marks to official beginning of the summer vacation season.
2. The merchants have big sales that bring the masses into the stores to transfer wealth to those they will later complain are too rich.
3. We’ll fire up our grills and feast on our burnt offerings; then sleep it off with little thought beyond our family.

Something similar to this is true of most holidays, so why have them ?
Why do we need justification to take a day off for rest and recreation ?
Why don’t we just declare one weekend each month a 3-day weekend ?

I. People need holidays and memorials because it is in our nature to forget.

A. Mountaintop events happen that we think we'll never forget, but we do.

1. Have you ever forgotten your anniversary? (*compound Latin word* : yearly – return)
2. Though you've revisited the event 29 times, she still reminds you. **Why ?**
 - a. Alright, so you forgot it ONE time.
 - b. That was such a traumatic even you couldn't possible forget again ... **could you ?**
3. There are times when we all need reminders.

B. God ordained some holidays and memorial services to remind us of our history.

1. God set a monument up to remind Him of His promise not to destroy man by water.
Gen. 9: 8-17 ... When God looks upon the rainbow, it reminds Him of His covenant.
2. **Gen. 28: 18** ... After Jacob had the promise of Abraham extended to him, he set up the stone upon which he slept as a pillar.
3. **Josh. 4: 1-13** ... God said set up 12 stones as a memorial of crossing the Jordan.
4. **Lev 23: 39-44** Feast of Booths was to remind them of their wilderness wanderings.
Vs. 42-43 'You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, **43 so that your generations may know** that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' "
5. **Ex 16:22ff, 20:8ff** ... Sabbath was a weekly reminder of the sovereignty of God.

C. Holidays provide an opportunity to pass our history down to the next generation.

1. When young people see their parents observing something, they are curious.
 - a. Why are we having a parade ?
 - b. Dad, the BBQ is great, but why do I have to listen to that old guy give a speech.
 - c. Why's it okay to set off firecrackers on the 4th of July, but not the rest of the time?
2. One of the reasons God gave the Passover was to teach each generation.
Exod. 12: 21- 27 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover *lamb*. **22** You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. **23** For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you. **24** And you shall observe this event as an

ordinance for you and your children forever. ²⁵ When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' ²⁷ you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.' " And the people bowed low and worshiped.

*** All memorial feasts had three parts : 1) Gather 2) Remember 3) Feast**

II. In the New Covenant Jesus set up a memorial to insure that we remembered Him.

A. While observing the last Passover feast under the Old Covenant

Jesus ordained a new memorial ... the weekly communion ... the Lord's Supper.

Matt. 26: 26-29 While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

B. When the Lord's memorial began to be treated like man's memorials, the brethren were required to correct their actions and make it just about Jesus.

1. The stated purpose of the assembly was to partake of the Lord's Supper.

I Cor.11: 20 – Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ..

2. They were rebuked for adding the Lord's Supper to their love feast. ... Vs. **21-22**

*** This debaucherous conduct was very common in the worship of idols.**

3. **I Cor. 11: 23- 34** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, (*A memorial – memory aid*) "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

(*A statement of faith*)

(*Not in reference to merit*)

(*Definition of "unworthy"*)

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not discern the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹ But if we

judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

(*Must assemble to partake*) **33** So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. **34** If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

*** Our Lord's feast has three parts : 1) Gather 2) Remember 3) Feast**

III. As we observe the Lord's Supper, what should we remember about Jesus ?

A. His birth ... because it was unique in all history.

1. Before being born of Mary, Jesus existed in Heaven as God.
 - a. **John 1: 1-3 , 14**
 - b. **Phil. 2: 5-7**
2. His birth was miraculous.
 - a. He was the only child ever born of a virgin. (*His Father had no flesh.*)
 - b. He was the only physical child ever fathered by God.

B. His life ... because it was as unique as His birth.

1. He was known for His care for other people.

Acts 10:38 – ... He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, ...
2. He left us a perfect example of sinless living.
 - a. **I Pet. 2: 21-24** ... **ONLY** Jesus lived without sin. (*cf.* – **Heb. 4: 15**)
 - b. *He showed us it could be done.*

C. His death ... because by it He willingly paid the penalty for the sins of others.

1. **Mark 10:45** ... He was born for the purpose of being a blood sacrifice.
2. **John 10: 18** ... His life was not taken from Him, but rather lovingly offered up.

D. His resurrection ... because it proves that He is really God in flesh.

1. **Matt. 27: 64-66** ... The Jews tried to prevent His resurrection; because they knew its significance.
2. This was the **ONLY** time in history that anyone raised himself from the dead.
 - a. A few dead were raised by Jesus and His Apostles , but not by their own power.
 - b. **Rom. 1: 4** ... This demonstrates a power beyond that of mortal man.

Rom. 1: 4 – ... who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, ...

3. Jesus was and is not just a man.

- a. As we pledge our allegiance to Jesus as Christ, we commit to the God of Heaven.
- b. We surrender in obedience to the sovereign ruler of all that is or ever will be.

E. **His promises** ... because He will return to take us home to Heaven with Him.

1. **John 14: 1-3** Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

2. Everyone will be resurrected from the dead, **but** only the faithful will go with Jesus.

- a. **John 5: 25-28** ... Those who are unforgiven will be resurrected, but for judgment
- b. **II Thes. 1: 6-10** ... When Jesus returns, it will be a time of great joy for those who have devoted their lives to His service, but it will be a time of judgment “to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

3. It does not matter whether we are alive or dead when He returns, He will take **all** who are HIS disciples home to be with Him FOREVER.

Read with me : **I Thes. 4: 13-18** But we do not want you to be uninformed, *(Christians who died)* brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

CONCLUSION :

A. Every Sunday is a memorial day; so when the communion tray passes, let us :

- 1. Remember what Jesus did for us.
- 2. Remember the future He purchased for those who are His.

B. If you're not in Him .. remember what he has promised to those who reject Him.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**Deuteronomy 6: 1-15**

1 “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded *me* to teach you, that you might do *them* in the land where you are going over to possess it, **2** so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. **3** O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do *it*, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, *in* a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

10 “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, **12** then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. **14** You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, **15** for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.”