

## CHRISTIANS AND MEMORIAL DAY

Having just celebrated another Memorial Day, we have had opportunity to reflect and remember the meaning associated with that great day. Memorial Day is a day wherein we remember and give honor to those who have given their lives to protect our way of life in this great nation. We have much for which to be grateful as we consider those who have laid their lives on the line so that we might continue to enjoy the privileges we have in this country. We have many here at Sixth Avenue who have served our country, and to them we say a heartfelt “thank you.” It used to be that stores closed, families got together, and parades were held to honor those who have fallen in service to our country. However, Memorial Day has become just another day off of work for many, with no idea of what it means. It is sad to see such a fitting remembrance be relegated to such insignificance.

As moving and appropriate as Memorial Day is, we have been given a far greater memorial to stir up our minds by way of remembrance. Shortly before his death, our Lord instituted the Lord’s Supper (Matt.26:26ff) as a memorial to his death, burial and resurrection. We partake of this memorial feast each Lord’s day, just as the early church did (Acts 20:7). Not only do we remember his suffering and death upon the cross by means of the emblems of the Supper and through the eye of faith, but we also look forward to the time when he will come again (1 Cor.11:26). Of all the memorials even instituted, and of all the monuments ever erected, the memorial of the Lord’s Supper far surpasses them all.

Unfortunately, many have abused and misused this greatest of memorials. Such should be no shock to us, for the first century church had trouble seeing the importance and meaning of the Supper. Paul stated that many in Corinth were sick, and some even were asleep as a result of their abuses of the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor.11:30). With the passing of time, and perhaps the lack of Bible teaching on this subject, the import and significance of the Lord’s Supper has diminished in the eyes of many. The majority of the religious world commemorates the death of Christ only a few times each year, if that. The argument usually advanced is that “if we partake of the Supper each Sunday, then we cause it to lose its meaning.” If the Lord told us to remember his death each Lord’s day, then it is our problem if we are unable to value it properly. Such an argument is never advanced in regard to giving (none skip collections on Sunday). For that matter, does worship somehow lose value because we do that each Lord’s day? Such argumentation is pitiful.

Still others abuse the Lord’s Supper by elevating it above other acts of worship. Some show up at services, partake of the Supper, and then leave. I suppose many have the idea that if they take the Lord’s Supper, then they have completed their worship to God. While it is true that the Lord’s Supper is the focal point of the worship as recorded in the New Testament, it is not an attempt to elevate this one act of worship above all others. It is, however, calling to our remembrance that the reason we assemble is to worship God

THROUGH Christ, which was made possible only through his death, burial, and resurrection.

For the Christian, we must remember that every first day of the week is Memorial Day!

*Patrick Morrison*