

5/27/07

## Memorial Day

It is right and good that both as individuals and as a nation we remember and acknowledge those that have preceded us with respect. The desire to remember and to have compassion for and seek goodness for those who have preceded us in death is instilled within us by God, who also seeks to give eternal blessings to all humankind (1 Tim. 2:4).

In God's plan, if humans had not sinned in the first place, they and their children would never have experienced any death – just eventual glorification. Yet, even with sin, death would still only be temporary, *if* humankind would accept the true Tree of Life, Jesus Christ. God is about life, sin is about death. As we choose eternal life through Jesus Christ, we accept God's alternative to final death and being forgotten.

We too will die the first death and eventually become the focus of future Memorial Days. Such may seem morbid from the carnal perspective of non-believers, but for believers it is otherwise. Although, we may eventually be forgotten by humans in years or centuries to come, God will never forget us (Heb. 6:10). He will return us to life (Jn. 11:25) without any pain of any type, neither bodily nor emotional (Rev. 21:1). We will only experience immeasurable and constant joy. Believing this is the essence of what faith is. "...when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Pe. 4:13).

Therefore, let us prepare ourselves so that we will be memorialized in God's "book of remembrance" so that he will gather us up and place us within his eternal kingdom as select jewels are placed in a royal crown (Mal. 3:16-17) or on a king's ring finger (Hag. 2:23). For the saints will never be forgotten, and will live and reign with Christ forever (Rv. 11:15, 22:5b).