



Lemoore church of Christ

May 24, 2020

Memorial Day

Tomorrow is *Memorial Day*, a national holiday. It is observed each year on the last Monday in the month of May. The holiday, formerly known as *Decoration Day*, commemorates military personnel, men and women, who have died while in service to the United States of America.

The holiday was first established to honor the many Union soldiers who gave their lives during the Civil War. One historian states that the first *Memorial Day* celebration was observed in 1865 in Charleston, SC by thousands of liberated slaves and Union soldiers at the site of a former Confederate prison camp and mass grave for Union soldiers who died while in confinement. The official birthplace of the holiday is Waterloo, NY where it was first celebrated on May 5, 1866. After World War I the focus of the day was expanded to honor all who died in any war or military action in the history of our nation.

The original purpose of *Memorial Day* was serious and probably evoked considerable solemnity. It was common for people to visit grave sites of loved ones who had died in military service on that day. One wonders how many people today, especially younger generations, really know the significance of the holiday. Today, *Memorial Day* seems to be more about having a day off work, going on a picnic with the family, and watching the *Indianapolis 500*. While those might be worthy endeavors, the real purpose of the day is what makes it special. Forgetting completely what *Memorial Day* is about leaves us more vulnerable to would-be enemies who would put us under their subjection.

Today is Sunday, the first day of the week, *the Lord's Day!* It is a *Memorial Day* that far surpasses in significance the holiday our nation will observe tomorrow. This is a day when the Christians who make up the Lord's church are supposed to gather together to worship God and remember the death

of our Savior on the cross. He made the ultimate sacrifice, giving His life on that cross for the guilt of our sins. He put His life on the line and paid our debt in order that we could have the opportunity to be set free from the slavery and condemnation of sin. He died to give us a chance to live eternally.

In partaking of the Lord's Supper we memorialize His death. In the bread we see the nails driving through His hands and feet and the spear piercing His side. In the cup we see the blood that was shed from His body while hanging on that cross. Today, each *Lord's Day*, is a sacred occasion that deserves our serious consideration and respect. On this day we honor our Savior in His death for us and also announce to the world that He is risen and that He is coming again!

Unfortunately, as with that other *Memorial Day*, many seem to have forgotten the real significance of *the Lord's Day*. For many it too has become simply a day off work, a day to sleep late, to work in the yard, play golf, go to the park, or to pursue any of a hundred other personal endeavors. Forgetting what this day is all about leaves us vulnerable to the most dangerous of all enemies, the devil himself, and our careless forgetfulness opens the door to once again becoming his slaves, bound by the chains of sin. *We need to remember!*

Gary L. Hutchens

Five Minutes with God: This week:

Sunday	Day 145	Matthew 15:32-39
Monday	Day 146	Matthew 16:1-4
Tuesday	Day 147	Matthew 16:5-12
Wednesday	Day 148	Mark 8:22-26
Thursday	Day 149	Matthew 16:13-20
Friday	Day 150	Matthew 16:21-28
Saturday	Day 151	Matthew 17:1-13

Prayer List:

Sandy Curtis has been diagnosed with COVID-19. She has been very ill but her lungs are clear at this time.

Kim Cargill, Stephanie Tischmacher's stepmom recovering from cancer surgery.

Red Cooper recovering from surgery.

Alice Fall is home now

Lora Virden has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer and is home on hospice. The family would appreciate continued prayers.

Gary Cole as he faces ongoing medical issues.

Richard Hunsberger, Stephanie Tischmacher's step-dad, is now home.

Bodie, friend of Bailey Radcliff, diagnosed with 2 brain tumors.

Rita Frankmore is under the care of a home health care nurse.

Wayne Bergeron, friend of Lisa Butts, has begun both chemo and radiation. It is making him very ill.

The families and Wayne appreciate your prayers.

Meryl Wamhoff, friend of Lisa Butts, has had two surgeries so far. Two more to go. They are now working on rebuilding his face. The families and MJ appreciate your prayers.

Gary Radcliff, Garth's father, may have radiation again in the future.

Marlon Raygoza that he gets the supervision he needs to make positive changes in his life.

Linda Frye, Cancer

Bill Fox, co-worker of Frank Baldwin, blood clots in his legs but has returned to work.

Angie and Tito Cano- on maintenance meds

Alexis Raygoza recovering from health issues.

Bart Massey, friend of Dixie Blair, stage 4 stomach cancer

Doug Standridge

Casey Case Jr ongoing oncology treatment

Our Mission Work:

- First Responders
- Preachers in Nicaragua
- Agape Village
- Crossover Ministry
- City of Children
- Manuelito's Children's Home
- Church of Christ Disaster relief Fund
- World Christian Broadcasting