

**Remnant Life Church**  
May 29, 2022  
**The Need to Remember**  
Memorial Day  
Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Memorial Day began after the Civil War, as a day to recognize the fallen soldiers who died fighting for what they believed in.

- It was originally called Decoration Day as families would decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers with flowers, flags, and ribbons.
- It didn't become an official holiday until 1967. And it's important that we don't forget those who have given their lives in the service to their country.

In the American Revolution we lost around 8,000 men. In WWI – 53,402. In WWII – 291,557. The Korean War – 30,880. Vietnam – around 58,000. And in wars and conflicts since Vietnam we've lost over 10,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. And in the Civil War, over 490,000 men died – more than all of the other war casualties combined

Memorial Day is to ensure that we never forget the ultimate sacrifice given by men and women in service to this country for our freedom.

*Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it*

- This quote has long been attributed to Winston Churchill
- But he did not say these words
- George Santayana was an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Spanish, Harvard education author, poet, and novelist who lived most of his life in Europe

But the words are painfully true today – perhaps even more so

- The attempt of many in this country to sanitize and wipe out portions of our history is going to, I fear, doom us to repeat them
- The reason is that without the knowledge of what took place, both the good and the bad, we cannot learn from them and will fall into the same patterns again

Well, this can also happen in the church

- We are warned in the words spoken by Moses in Deuteronomy
- This fifth book of the OT (collectively known as the Pentateuch) is essentially Moses' farewell address to the people he has been leading
- In it he reviews and renews God's covenant with Israel primarily for the sake of the new generation of Israelites who had been born during the time of wandering and did not witness the miracles of the Exodus and the giving of the 10 commandments with the law of God

**READ – Deuteronomy 8:11-20**

Some of the last words that Moses speaks to the people are a warning not to forget who God is and what He has done for them

Christians today who honor God with their mouths, but deny Him with their actions are moving further and further from God in their hearts

Theologian RC Sproul said this regarding what is becoming commonplace within our churches today

- *The majority of American's claim to be Christian, and only a small percentage claim to be actual atheists. But the truth is – many within the Church are functional atheists. In other words; they would never say that they do not believe in God, but they live their lives like there is no God. Truly, they profess Christ with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him.*
- He goes on to say that while atheists do not pray, read their Bible, or try to live for God, neither do functional atheists
  - They are, what RC Sproul says, hedging their bets just in case
  - Playing both ends against the middle, playing the odds, and covering all of their bases
  - But you cannot do that
  - Jesus does not give us the option of riding the fence – you must choose a master to serve
  - Either the world or God

But you cannot do that if you have forgotten, in the midst of all of the noise, confusion, and misinformation, who God is

And Moses focuses on several points that must be remembered

1. Remember to keep His commands and laws
  - a. *V 11 - Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.*
  - b. The law was given by God to the people through Moses so that they would know how to live
    - i. The same law they had then is the law, or Word of God, that we have today
    - ii. The lie many churches are embracing today is that we must somehow “update,” or “modernized” the Bible in order to become current with the culture of the day
    - iii. Therein lies a major problem, the culture is dictating the behavior of the church instead of the church dictating the behavior of the culture
  - c. What happens when we embrace that?
    - i. *V 12-14 - Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*
    - ii. Every time pride comes into the hearts of men they turn away from God
    - iii. They forget who their provider is, their shield, their comfort, and their creator

2. Remember who brought you to where you are and provided for your needs
  - a. Take a moment to consider the blessings in your life right now
  - b. Do you think that any of that is by your doing?
    - i. God gave you every ability you have
    - ii. Your mind, your body, your strengths were all created and given to you by God
    - iii. The circumstances of your life that has brought you to the place you are today are given by God's hand
  - c. **Vv 15-18** - *He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*
  - d. But we tend to think instead that it is our doing that gets us where we are
    - i. That is not how a Christian should live
    - ii. Did you know; that in the New Testament, when it talks about Jesus, it refers to Him 24 times as Savior.
    - iii. But it refers to Him over 600 times as Lord. If you are living as functional atheism that has happened because you have put yourself on the throne.
    - iv. You are not lord... JESUS IS LORD!

First, remember to keep His commands and laws

Second, remember who brought you to where you are and provided for your needs

3. Remember the consequences if you forget these things
  - a. **V 19-20** - *If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.*
  - b. The Israelite's history was filled with times when they forgot God and worshipped idols or themselves
  - c. And every time they paid heavy consequences for their turning away
  - d. Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it
    - i. God's people often had very short memories
    - ii. And the history of the nation of Israel should be viewed as a foreshadowing of what is in store for this nation if we do not change the condition of our hearts

**READ – 2 Chron 26:16-21**

King Uzziah had been king for 52 years, the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest reign of any king of both Israel and Judah and for the most part he had been a good king.

- However, as sometimes happens with people who are godly over a long period of time, they become complacent, call it forgetful, and think that they can do things their own way.
- Toward the end of his life, King Uzziah became dissatisfied with being only a mortal king – he wanted to be a divine King
  - So, he entered into the temple and offered a burnt incense offering to God
  - He had taken it upon himself to act as a priest
  - This was something that he was expressly forbidden to do because God had stipulated that only the Levite priests were permitted to offer sacrifices (**Lev 18**)
- When Azariah the high priest and the other priests tasked with the work of the temple confronted the king he responded in anger instead of conviction and repentance.
- Because of his pride and disobedience, God afflicted him with leprosy and he lived out the rest of his days in isolation
- He died not on the throne, but on a solitary death bed because of his disobedience.
- The southern kingdom, Judah, which Uzziah was the king over, looked as if it was fine much in the same way this nation has appeared for the past 200+ years.
  - It was prospering because of the good leadership of Uzziah prior to his disobedience.
  - However, the people forgot God in their hearts and instead depended upon the man on the throne.

Just as Judah was in danger in that time because King Uzziah forgot who God was, so too this nation is in grave danger

- We have been working very hard over the past 50 years or so to remove God from virtually every aspect of our lives
- From our places of government, our schools, our homes, and now even many of our churches

Listen again to the words of Moses as he warns the people of the danger of forgetting

**Deut 8:19-20** - *If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.*