

An American flag is planted in a field of tall grass. The sun is setting behind the flag, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, some of which are illuminated by the setting sun. The overall mood is solemn and patriotic.

MEMORIAL DAY 2018

Josh. 4:5-7

“Glorify the Creator via Memorials”

Josh. 4:5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

6 That **this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean ye by these stones?***

7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and **these stones shall be for a memorial** unto the children of Israel for ever.

Historical Background

In April 1863, in Columbus, Mississippi, after decorating graves of her two sons who died representing their beloved southland, an elderly woman walked to two mounds of dirt at the corner of the cemetery to place memorial flowers there also. "***What are you doing?***" friends shouted, "***Those are the graves of two union soldiers.***" Softly that compassionate mother said, "***I know. I also know that somewhere in the North, a mother or a young wife mourns for them as we do for ours.***" That loving deed set in motion our celebration that has become known as Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by **General John Logan**, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

For many today, Memorial Day is simply the “beginning of summer” and a reason to roast hot-dogs on a grill. For others more patriotic, it is a time to be thankful for the cost of freedom.



Memorial (noun)

Something designed to preserve the memory of a person, event, etc., as a monument or a holiday. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/memorial?s=t>

As our nation celebrates preserving the memory of the fallen soldiers, we join them in thanksgiving and respect for all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice that we might enjoy the precious freedom in our country to celebrate such a holiday.

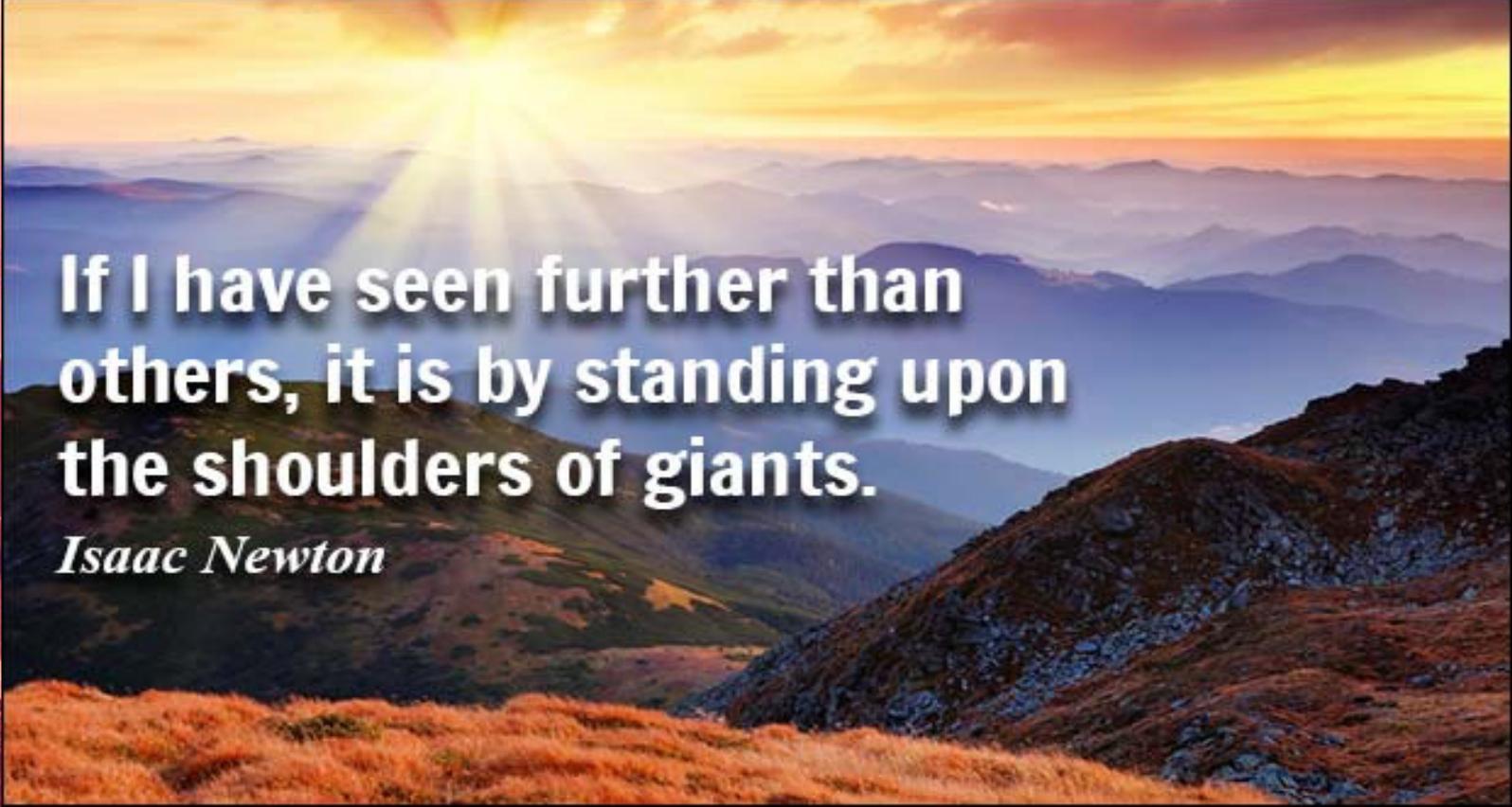
I appreciate the sentiment of Gen. George S. Patton:

"I consider it no sacrifice to die for my country. In my mind we came here to thank God that men like these have lived rather than to regret that they have died."

General George S. Patton, Jr.

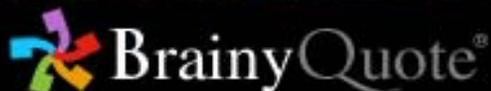
Speech at an Allied cemetery in Italy (Nov. 1943)

- As Sir Isaac Newton humbly honored others before him, we must appreciate that we, too, are standing upon the shoulders of those fallen soldiers whose sacrificed lives help preserved our freedom.



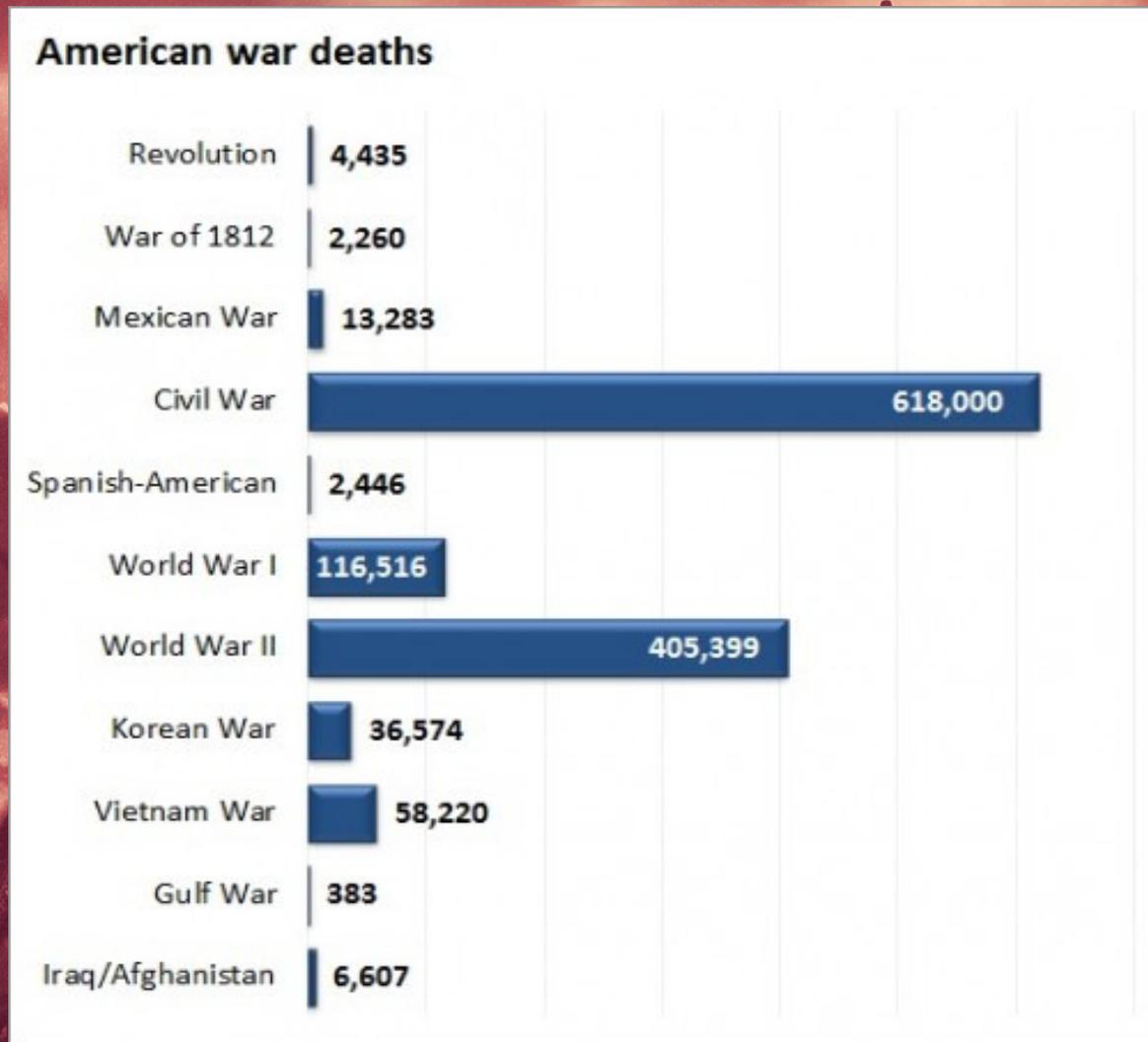
**If I have seen further than
others, it is by standing upon
the shoulders of giants.**

Isaac Newton



<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/i/isaacnewto135885.html>

- On Memorial Day, we need to make the effort to consider the multitude of Americans who have died to preserve our nation.



American War Dead, By the Numbers

PAUL WALDMAN

MAY 26, 2014

Putting our past and present conflicts in context.

<http://prospect.org/article/american-war-dead-numbers>

From the spiritual perspective, many men and women made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:26 Men that have **hazarded their lives** for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“The true Christian is called to be a soldier and must behave as such from the day of his conversion to the day of his death. He is not meant to live a life of religious ease, indolence and security. He must never imagine for a moment that he can sleep and doze along the way to heaven, like one traveling in an easy carriage.”

J. C. Ryle

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/soldier_4.html#evOh5AutuitC8gZE.99

The concept of a memorial is in both the Old and New Testaments in the Bible. The word itself is found 32 times in 31 verses. This morning we will consider our text in conjunction with a few of those other verses.

I. THE MEMORIAL TO REMEMBER WHO GOD IS

Ex. 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**

A. The Preparation for Life's Challenges

Ex. 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; **and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?**

B. The Power for Life's Challenges

Ex. 3:14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

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Hos. 12:5 Even the LORD God of hosts; **the LORD is his memorial.**

Acts 15:26 Men that have **hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Phil. 2:10 That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,** of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

Col. 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,** giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- We need to remember Who God is, and what He has done for us.

II. THE MEMORIAL TO REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Ex. 12:12 For **I will** pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt **I will** execute judgment: **I am the LORD**.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

14 And **this day shall be unto you for a memorial**; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

A. The Provision for our Deliverance from Spiritual Bondage

1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as **ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things**, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

B. The Provision for our Deliverance from Social Boredom



Josh. 4:5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

6 That **this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean ye by these stones?***

7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and **these stones shall be for a memorial** unto the children of Israel for ever.

- The ultimate parenting skill is living a life where God has worked through you, that you can share such memories with your children.

Psa. 77:11 **I will remember the works of the LORD:** surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

Psa. 111:4 **He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered:** the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion.

Psa. 143:5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all **thy works;** I muse on **the work of thy hands.**

III. THE MEMORIAL TO REMEMBER WHAT GOD REMEMBERS

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*,
2 **A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.**

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, **Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.**

- Prayers and alms are a memorial before God.
- Words and offerings are a testimony of one's heart.

Mt. 12:35 **A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:** and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Mt. 15:18 But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart;** and they defile the man.

19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

2 Cor. 9:7 **Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;** not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

- God remembers what our heart motivates us to do.

Heb. 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget **your work and labour of love**, which ye have **shewed toward his name**, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.



Conclusion

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth**: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; **and their works do follow them.**

1 Thess. 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith**, and **labour of love**, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation**, though we thus speak.

- Let's live a life that will produce sweet memorials for others, especially honoring Christ at the Judgment Seat.

