

Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer May 25, 2014

MEMORIAL DAY

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. It is a holiday in which the nation takes the time to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country by giving their lives in battle or service. Americans have cookouts, go to the beach, and shoot fireworks, among other things, but we never forget those who have fallen protecting our freedoms. There will be many people visiting any number of memorials this weekend. Whether it is one of the war memorials in Washington D.C., the 9-11 memorial in New York City, the memorial for the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, or any of the others that have been built around the country, we can be reminded of those who have given their lives for this country because of our custom of constructing these memorials. They serve to help us remember what happened. They cause us to reflect on what those who died stood for and defended.

We have such a memorial each first day of the week when we observe the Lord's Supper. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night He was betrayed by Judas and commanded His apostles to partake of it in remembrance of Him. Jesus told them that the bread represented His body, and the fruit of the vine was His blood that was shed for many (Mark 14:22-24). The Lord's Supper is our time to remember what Jesus did for us, and for us to clear our minds of all thoughts except His sacrifice. Paul stated that in partaking of the Lord's Supper, we "proclaim the Lord's death 'til He comes." (I Corinthians 11:26). We understand how significant His sacrifice was, and that without it, there would be no hope in the world. As we celebrate Memorial Day, let us remember the greatest sacrifice.

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Elders:

Dana Carter Kenneth Carter Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear Kendall Bear Larry Brackett Roger Carter Steve McCreary

Minister: Kirby Hinds

Secretary: Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am Worship Service 10:45 am Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday Ladies Class 10 am

Email: rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website: Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Selected

"(His Son) who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord," (Romans 1:4).

The empty tomb has for 2000 years now been a proof that Jesus lives. The disciples bore witness of the Lord's resurrection in Jerusalem and throughout the world. They saw the risen body of Jesus in the upper room in the days just after the crucifixion and resurrection. "So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'" (John 20:19-21).

Now having seen the risen Lord, they were sent to proclaim that the promise of eternal life is not a vague hope but a confidence we can have. Paul would write that the Lord's resurrection is the proof we need for our own resurrection (I Corinthians 15). The Lord gave him a special appearance on that road to Damascus so he might also be a witness. What a difference it made in their lives. After seeing the risen Lord they were fearless in their proclamation of Christ. Their lives were so different than before. The Jewish court took note that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Would it make a difference in us if we could see Jesus? Would it change us? Of course the purpose of the Word is to show us Jesus. John concluded his gospel telling us that he had recorded the signs and events so we could read and believe (John 20:30-31). Most of the world does not read...or see and therefore does not believe. Most of the world is not changed by Jesus because they do not see Him.

The church and Her individual members are the body of Christ. "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it" (I Corinthians 12:27). We must take the teachings of our Lord and live them so completely that the world can see Jesus in us. As Jesus reached out to touch those who hurt, so must we. We must teach the lost as the Lord came to see and save that which was lost. As the body of Christ, we must defend the helpless and feed the hungry. The Lord lived in righteousness and we must show the world that same example of faithfulness to God.

Can the world see Jesus in you?

Gerald Elliott