

“A GRAND REMEMBERING”

HEBREWS 12:1-4

INTRO: During the **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**, we Americans have the honor of remembering those who have given their lives for the freedoms we hold dear in our nation. Some statistics:

- 1,282,205 vets have died in war since 1775.
- 624,000 vets die annually from natural causes.
- 649 Gold Star families in Blair County, PA.

Certainly, all **VETS** deserve our **RESPECT**, but those **VETS** who have given their lives for our freedom deserve our **GREATEST HONOR...WHICH WE RENDER THIS WEEKEND**. But as we remember those who have given their lives for our freedom in America, it is also appropriate to remember the **FAITHFUL SAINTS OF GOD**, who lived and even died for their faith down through the ages. In addition, it is also **VERY APPROPRIATE** for us to remember the great work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. So, in today's message I want to speak on a **GRAND REMEMBERING** as we focus on those faithful saints who have gone on before us as well as the wonderful work of our **BLESSED SAVIOR** and His work on our behalf.

I. REMEMBER THE SAINTS WHO LIVED AND DIED AS OUR EXAMPLE

“SEEING WE ARE COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES” – Vs. 1

NOTE: This verse speaks of those believers in chapter 11 who lived before us from the time of creation and who gave a witness to the value and blessing of living by faith in God. They lived by faith and obtained a **GOOD REPORT**.

– Hebrews 11:2.

A. This Includes the Old Testament Saints

1. The 17 People of Faith specifically named in Hebrews 11:1-32a
2. The OT Prophets of Faith mentioned in Hebrews 11:32b-34
3. The Women of Faith referred to in Hebrews 11:35
 - a. The Widow of Zerepath – 1 Kings 17:22
-Who provided food for Elijah and whose son Elijah raised from the dead through her faith.
 - b. The Woman of Shunem – 2 Kings 4:14
-Who cared for Elisha and who had childbirth through Elisha's prophesy and when the child died Elisha raised him from the dead through her faith.

B. This Includes the New Testament Saints

1. Who were Martyred for their Faith in Christ (Stephen) – Acts 7:59
2. Who were Persecuted for their faith in Christ – Acts 8:1-4

C. This Includes the Contemporary Saints

NOTE: The Saints who have suffered for Christ have provided an example for us to follow. Therefore, we should **“LAY ASIDE”** every weight and the sin that may beset us and patiently run the Christian race with patience, never quitting.

II. REMEMBER THE SAVIOR WHO LIVED AND DIED FOR OUR SALVATION

“LOOKING UNTO JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH” - Vs 2

WE ARE CALLED UPON AND TO FIX OUR EYES UPON CHRIST AND TO REMEMBER ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR US IN HIS REDEMPITIVE WORK!

A. Remember that Christ is the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

1. As the **“AUTHOR”** of our Faith Christ originated our Salvation.
2. As the **“FINISHER”** of our Faith Christ completed our Salvation.

B. Remember that Christ Endured the Cross for our Faith.

1. Christ **ENDURED** the **SHAME** of sin the Cross brought upon Him.
2. Christ **BORE** the **SIN** of all of mankind the Cross brought upon Him.
3. Christ **SUFFERED** the **SEPARATION** from the Father the Cross brought upon Him.

C. Remember that Christ Bore the Cross with Joy for our Faith.

1. The **JOY** of knowing He was doing the will of the Father
2. The **JOY** of knowing He was providing a Perfect Sacrifice for Sinners

D. Remember that Christ is at the Right Hand of the Throne of God the Father as the Captain of our Faith.

1. This is the place of **POWER AND AUTHORITY** as the **SOVEREIGN LORD OF ENTIRE UNIVERSE**.

2. This is the place of the **VICTORIOUS REDEEMER** Who is the only **SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**.
3. This is the place of the **PREEMINENT HEAD** of the **CHURCH** of the **LIVING GOD**.
4. This is the place of the **LOVING INTERCESSOR** of each **BORN AGAIN BELEVER IN CHRIST**.

TRULY JESUS CHRIST DESERVES ALL OF OUR WORSHIP, PRAISE AND SERVICE FOR ALL THAT HE IS AND HAS DONE FOR US! LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM AND NEVER FORGET HIM!

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

1. **REMEMBERING** those who have given their lives for us in the Armed Forces is very appropriate and should cause us to thank God for their sacrifice and to stand for and support the freedom they have handed down to us.
2. **REMEMBERING** those faithful believers who have exercised faith in God in the midst of adversity should give us an example to follow.
3. **REMEMBERING** Who Jesus Christ is and What He has done for us should cause us to yield our lives to Him in **SERVICE AND WORSHIP**.
4. **REMEMBERING** the faithful believers who have gone on before us and the Lord Jesus Christ Who died for us should motivate us to be faithful in all aspects of our life so that others can follow our example and so that Christ may be honored by our living.