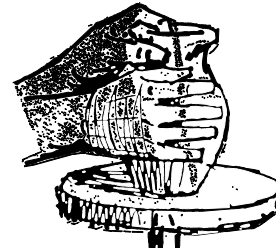


His Workmanship at Westside

*“For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works.”
—Ephesians 2:10*



Vol. XXII

May 26, 2013

No. 21

Isaiah 64:8

Memorial Day and God's Memorials for Past, Future *by Patrick Wraight*

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1873 New York was the first state to recognize the day officially. After WWI the holiday changed to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. Since the late 1950s on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

Today, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer. It is the first big summertime travel weekend. People around the country will barbecue, cook out, travel, and visit with family and friends. But in almost every village and town in America, you can find a memorial to fallen warriors, and there will be a ceremony honoring its war dead.

A. Memorials Link Us to the Past.

Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those whose bravery and dedication caused them to give the final sacrifice. Joshua similarly called the people to build two memorials to remind their children about what God had done in the past, Josh 4:1-9. God showed His people that as time passes, memories fade. There would be a time when people, even the nation, would need to remember God's provision. We're like that still today. Without memorials, we quickly forget about our past. Monuments take us back so that we can remember our past.

1. Every Person Must Establish Memorials. Personally, too, we need to find our own memorials and remember the work that God has done in our lives. Otherwise, we lose sight of God in our lives and become discouraged, cold, prayerless. Memorials link us to the past. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, they took stones from the river to build a monument, representing the day they crossed over, Josh 4:1-3.

Every person has a past. The day we were saved sets up a monument. We remember when Jesus created a u-turn in our lives, when we changed

direction.

2. What does God want us to remember about our past? Remember: we were children of Satan, Jn 8:44; see also Mt 13:38; 1 Jn 3:10; Eph 2:2-3. Remember: we were clueless about God. During the years in the wilderness, Israel learned many things about God. They learned of His provision and His judgment. They learned that He meant business with them and with all who would oppose them.

God uses the hardships of life to teach us about Him. What I knew about God the day I was saved was very small. What He's taught me as He's held my hand through the dark days of my life has been more than any book lesson. Israel could take their children back to the monument and tell them about what they had experienced in the desert. They could tell them about the days when it seemed hopeless and there was nothing left to do but die. Job could take us to monuments in his life when God took care of his needs. He could take you to the monuments of the graves of his children and tell you that God was with him through it all.

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"He put two onyx stones [engraved with the names of the sons of Israel and set in gold] on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded Moses." —Exodus 39:7

Look back. What monument to God's work do you need to see?

B. Memorials Link Us to the Future. Joshua commanded twelve men, one from each tribe, to take up stones from the Jordan to set up in Gilgal, Josh 4:4-8. This pillar not only reminded them of where they had been, but also where they were going. Israel knew that ahead of them would be war to claim the land of promise from occupiers. God had promised them victory in this war. *"And Joshua said, 'By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites,"* Josh 3:10.

1. Monuments remind us that we are winning a war. Six months after the terrorist attacks on America, there were two brilliant sets of lights illuminating the night sky of New York. Two focused beams shot straight into the heavens. This tribute was built to remind us that we had suffered a great loss that day, but also served as a look ahead to our resolve to do whatever it takes to ensure that it never happens again. Likewise, Christians look ahead. God has promised us victory. *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* 1 Jn 5:3-4; see also Rev 3:21; Rm 8:35-37.

We are not called to an easy life, but one of combat against the darkness. Each battle has its monument. It reminds us to be vigilant, to be obedient, to stay away from sin, and to follow the path God has laid out. That

is where we meet the battle. God has already won the war. It is our responsibility to fight our daily battles.

2. Monuments remind us that we are headed for heaven. God promised the Israelites peace and fruitful lives if they would obey God and conquer the land. If they had obeyed God, they would not have fallen into idolatry as easily, they would not have had to battle countless enemies repeatedly, and they would have had peace in the land of promise.

Just as Israel had a land of promise, so do we. Our promised land has everything to do with conquest, warfare, and strife—our conquest of sin and bad habits, our spiritual battles against temptation, our strife against sin in the world. Our promised land is heaven. Aren't you glad that your land of promise comes with God's peace? Aren't you glad that God has promised heaven to His children and that we can rely on His faithfulness to get there? Remember that this wilderness we live in is temporary. We have a permanent home in heaven waiting for us.

C. Memorials Last. Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan River. The end of verse 9 is significant: *"and they are there until this day."* A memorial isn't set up for last a day, a week, or a month. A memorial is built to last for generations. Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower were built to last. The memorial stones in Gilgal were meant to last forever: *"that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the*

LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." Josh 4:6-7.

Monuments are there for when we need to look at them. God has established many memorials for His people:

1. The rainbow: *"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth,"* Gen 9:13-16.

2. Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. *"So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance... Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance... And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever,"* Ex 12:14, 17, 24; see Ex 12:25-27. *"Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes,*

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Psalm 133:1



Fill your can-teen in 2013

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”

—Ephesians 3:19

Memorials, from p. 2

that the LORD'S law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year,” Ex 13:7-10; see 13:3, 14-16. See also Israel's other feasts, Lev 23: “it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings,” Lev 23:14; see v. 21, **Pentecost** (first-fruits); it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings,” Lev 23:31, **Day of Atonement**; “that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I AM the LORD your God,” Lev 23:43, **Feast of Booths** (tabernacles); cf. Ex 10:2; Lev 22:33; Deut 31:13; Ps 78:5-6.

3. Manna, Aaron's rod, and the tablets of the covenant. “...behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant,” Heb 9:3-4; “to be kept for your generations,” Ex 16:32-34; see Ex 25:21; 40:20; Num 17:10; Deut 10:4-5; 1 Kg 8:9.

4. The woman's anointing of Jesus. “And when Jesus was in Beth-

any at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table... [Jesus said,] ‘Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her,’ ” Mt 26:6-13.

4. The Lord's Supper. “The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He come,’ ” 1 Cor 11:23-26; cf. Mt 26:28-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:15-20..

These monuments were established by God to remind us of what He does and how He works in our lives. He wants us to remember Him and take that memory with us to motivate us in our good fight.

The personal memorials is your life are also enduring: your day of baptism (salvation), your marriage, births and deaths of family members, and God's deliverances in your life. We need to look back periodically at some of those times and remind ourselves that if God was willing to work His work for us then, what is He willing to do for us now? Let us thank Him when we remember.

Memory Verse: “I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation. I have not concealed Your loving-kindness and Your truth from the great assembly.”—Psalm 40:10

Discipleship Here At Home

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here & away

Madge Wallace—lung cancer; at home with hospice; declining rapidly

Mark Campbell—in rehab after head injury; recovering at home

Matt Reames—home, no abnormal pressure on brain; further tests required

Judy Strand's son Joe Huff—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

Alexander Gintchin's classmate, Jack Miller—2 brain tumors; age 6

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;

Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Nell Free—new pacemaker, heart; back pain

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes; **Virginia**, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; pain

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Job concerns **Andrew Tope** and

Frank Savarese are seeking jobs. **The Menards' son** has found work.

Traveling **DeWayne** and **Kaysha Howell** are touring Europe by car and bike via Eurail pass. **Mina Gonzalez**

is in TX, NM, and AZ to June 3. **Pat Campbell** is in AR caring for her

parents until the end of May.

Expecting **Marie Carlson**—July 1 girl

Amy Vander Kooi—August, boy

REJOICE **John McLaughlin**, a co-worker of **Vickie Reingrover**, was

baptized into Christ last Tuesday.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Is Incest Far Behind? Why Not? *anonymous*

Gay marriage used to bring the same reaction you just had to this headline. Think of all the things they are going to try to make normal now. Check it out: Actor Jeremy Irons is making headlines for his hesitancy on gay marriage and whether it might lead to incestuous marital relationships if only to avoid estate taxes. Irons says, "Could a father not marry his son? ...It's not incest between men. Incest is there to protect us from inbreeding, but men don't breed... If that were so, then if I wanted to pass on my estate without death [taxes], I could marry my son and pass on my estate to him." The interviewer was dismissive, but why not incest? Because of tax problems? Seriously. Why not incest.

The left is championing what Senator Mark Kirk said last month when he decided he would support gay marriage, "Life comes down to who you love and who loves you back—government has no place in the middle." Should that include committed incestuous relationships? If love and commitment are the justification for marriage, why exempt this?

But...but...but what about the deformity of the kids, etc. Well, gay couples cannot have kids. Just as gay marriage advocates say the concerns about procreation are archaic when it comes to marriage, they are definitionally irrelevant if we move on to gay marriage. The same would be true for an older mother who is past child-bearing age. So why not fathers marrying sons and moms marrying daughters and older mothers marrying sons and daughters? Is it because of the "ick" factor? Why should that preclude it? (What, or rather Who, precludes it is God, Lev 20:10-21 [includes adultery, homosexuality, and bestiality]; cf. Lev 18:6-18, Deut 22:30; 27:20-23; Ezek 22:10-11; Amos 2:7; 1 Cor 5:1.)

If life comes down to whom you love and who loves you back, if a father and son love each other so much they want to get married, then there is little moral difference between two people of the same sex getting married who are not related and two people of the same sex who already are related becoming closer.

The truth is, many, many, many of the same people who are now in support of gay marriage, but would oppose incest or polygamy, will support these things, too, once the next step is advanced. They just have to lie about it for now until they can shift public opinion further. That's relativism, folks.

Westside church of Christ

meets at
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Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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This morning: "Famine in the Land,"

by Jim Reingrover

The Old Testament Prophet Amos saw a time when the word of God would not be heard or even found in Israel. He described it as a famine. Such a famine exists now in America—but there is a solution!

This afternoon:

A Walk in Their Sandals Series

"Aaron—Second Banana,"

by Jeff Wilkes