

“REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL”

JOHN 15:1-14

TEXT: VERSE 13

“GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”

INTRO: This is **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND** in America when millions of people will be gathering for picnics, parades, and various festivities and yet in doing so, many will not take into consideration the depth of the significance of the holiday we are celebrating. **MEMORIAL DAY** is one of several **PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS** for us in America when focus on the **BLESSINGS OF GOD IN AMERICA AND HOW HE USED MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO BRING OUR NATION TOGETHER**. This weekend in particular, we will focus on those in the **ARMED FORCES** who gave their lives for our freedoms (**THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY**). My title for today’s message is **“REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL”** in which we will focus, not just on those who gave their lives for the freedoms of our nation, but on others who gave their lives for the spiritual freedom of many, including our **LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**. Our scriptural text is John 15:13 that says, **“GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”**

I. LET’S REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR NATION

A. Our Founding Fathers – Mainly those who signed the **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**.

1. All of the 56 who signed the **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** made sacrifices for their love of freedom.
2. Present Article (The sacrifices made by the signers of the Declaration)

B. Our Military Veterans – Particularly those 1.2 million plus men and women who gave their lives for our **NATIONAL FREEDOM** and the concept of **POLITICAL LIBERTY**.

-Present Statistics (Of those who died in combat for America)

C. Our Gold Star Families – Those families who have lost parents, children, siblings and relatives in war down through our nation’s history.

1. 650 such families in Blair County
2. 44,594 such families in Pennsylvania

NOTE: **WITHOUT THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, OUR VETERANS AND THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES NONE OF US WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE “BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY” WE HAVE IN AMERICA. TODAY, LET’S GIVE GOD THE PRAISE FOR RAISING UP PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THE FREEDOMS WE ENJOY TODAY IN AMERICA. LET US PRAY THAT THIS GREAT FREEDOM CAN MAINTAINED AND THAT GOD WILL RAISE UP OTHERS, INCLUDING OURSELVES TO STAND FOR THE FREEDOMS WE ALL HOLD DEAR TO OUR HEARTS.**

II. LET’S REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FAITH

NOTE: By **“FAITH”** I refer to the **WHOLE TRUTH OF THE WORD OF GOD** and the **GREAT SALVATION** we have in the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

A. The Old Testament Saints

-Hebrews 11:32-40

B. The Original Apostles of Jesus Christ

1. All but the Apostle John were martyrs for the faith.
2. Present Article (Of how some of the original apostles died)

C. The Martyrs for Christ down through Church History

1. At least 70 million since the time of Christ
2. Current statistics: On the rise in modern times.
 - a. One martyred every 6 minutes worldwide.
-From many Muslim and Hindu Nations
 - b. 10,000 per month
 - c. 120,000 per year

D. The Teaching of Scripture

1. To believers in General – John 16:2; 2 Timothy 3:12
2. Believers in the Great Tribulation Period – Matthew 24:9

NOTE: **AS WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR OUR NATIONAL FREEDOMS, LET US ALSO REMEMBER AND BE MOTIVATED BY THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST AS RENDERED IN THE HYMN: “THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR”**

***“A GLORIOUS BAND, THE CHOSEN FEW ON WHOM THE SPIRIT CAME,
TWELVE VALIANT SAINTS, THEIR HOPE THEY KNEW AND MOCKED THE CROSS AND FLAME, THEY MET THE
TYRANT’S BRANDISHED STEEL, THE LION’S GORY MANE; THEY BOWED THEIR NECKS THE DEATH TO FEEL.
WHO FOLLOWS IN THEIR TRAIN?”***

***“A NOBLE ARMY, MEN AND BOYS, THE MATRON AND THE MAID, AROUND THE SAVIOR’S THRONE REJOICE
IN ROBES OF LIGHT ARRAYED. THEY CLIMBED THE STEEP ASCENT OF HEAVEN THROUGH PERIL, TOIL AND
PAIN, O GOD, TO US MAY GRACE BE GIVEN TO FOLLOW IN THEIR TRAIN.”***

III. LET’S REMEMBER THAT JESUS CHRIST GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US ALL

- A. The Blessing of His Love for us – John 15:13
- B. The Blessings of His Sacrifice for us – Romans 5:6-11

**NOTE: LET’S NEVER FORGET ALL THAT JESUS CHRIST WENT THROUGH FOR US ON THE CROSS. MAY CHRIST’S
WORK FOR US ON THE CROSS MOTIVATE US TO GIVE OUR LIVES FOR HIM.**

LESSON/APPLICATION

ROMANS 12:1,2