

Let's Remember

Hebrews 11:38 and 12:1

MEMORIAL DAY 2026

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 24, 2026

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's Email is joe@southreno.com.

You can locate this passage in your Chair Bible on Page 176 (in the NT Section).

In some places, God's word is underlined with dots with Pastor Joe's commentary in the bracketed, lighter faced text.

A. Study Section

...(men of whom the world was not worthy) - Hebrews 11:38, NASB95

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us...

- Hebrews 12:1, NASB95

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 11:38, NASB95 - ³⁸ ([The added parentheses are an editorial choice made by English translators to help readers follow the flow of thought. In Greek, Hebrews 11:35-40 is one very long, breathless sentence. The writer is listing the sufferings of the unnamed faithful, and then—almost as if he can't help himself—he interrupts his own sentence to make a heartfelt observation—*men of whom the world was not worthy*. The parentheses separate *what they endured* from *what they were worth*. "It's like a burst of emotion!" - ATR] *men* [in italics, this word is added in our English translations for clarity and is associated with the phrases "the world" and "not worthy;" *this world is not worthy* of the lives that are mentioned in Hebrews 11] of whom the world was not worthy [GK: ἄξιος (*AX-ee-os*) paints a picture of a balanced scale that determined *the world is not worthy* of these lives mentioned in the Roll Call of Faith (Ch. 11). The writer of Hebrews is not trying to soften something; he's trying to sharpen something. "This phrase was a 21-gun salute to the Hebrews 11 martyrs." - Medal of Honor Recipient Timothy O'Callahan — U.S. Navy Chaplain (WWII)].

Hebrews 11:38, NLT - ³⁸ They were too good for this world....

Hebrews 11:38, CEV - ³⁸ The world did not deserve these good people....

STUDY SECTION - Hebrews 12:1, NASB95 - ¹ Therefore [ATR: "a triple compound, inferential, emphatic participle;" GK: τοιγαροῦν (*toy-ga-ROUN*) "toy" means *emphatic conclusion*; "gar" means *because* of the lives mentioned in Ch. 11; "oun" means *so* as in *so what*], since we have so great a cloud [GK: νέφος (*KNEE-phos*) meaning *massive crowd of people covering the sky*] of witnesses [GK: μαρτύρων (*mar-TU-roon*) meaning *Martyrs*—in the genitive case. They are not watching us. They are witnessing to us, shouting to us, and cheering us on in our own walks of faith. They are bearing witness to us that God can see us through—that God is and will be faithful] surrounding us....

Hebrews 12:1, NLT - ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith....

Hebrews 12:1, NCV - ¹ We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means.

B. Let's Remember What?

1. Their Sacrifice

Hebrews 11:33-34, NASB95 - ³³ ...who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

2. The Stadium

Hebrews 12:1a, NASB95 - ¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us....

3. Our Struggle

Hebrews 12:1b, NASB95 - ¹ ...let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us....

4. The Strategy

Hebrews 12:1c-3, NASB95 - ¹ ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.