

“Remember, Honor, Understand”

John 19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “**It is finished,**” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

- Remember –
- Honor –
- Understand –

Welcome to Grace!

Memorial Day is tomorrow; this is a time to remember, honor, and understand what it takes to be a free nation. There are many who have served and died for our great nation. Last week, my wife and I visited Pearl Harbor. When we entered Submarine Museum, there was an opening illustration of a collage of pictures of submariners who died during WWII arranged in such a way as to create the image of the submarine community’s warfare insignia: “A gold metal pin showing the bow view of a submarine proceeding on the surface with bow planes rigged for diving; flanked by dolphins in horizontal position, their heads resting on the upper edge of the bow planes.”

The image had pictures of 3,506 Sailors who sacrificed their lives under the surface of the deep in order that we, Americans, might experience freedom. Above the image it read “**Freedom Isn’t Free.**”

This Memorial Day: may we remember the 1.1 million US Military personnel who died serving our country. And may we be reminded that while our country isn’t perfect, neither is any other. What makes the United States of America unique is our freedom.

Memorial Day also gives us the opportunity to remember, honor, and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- To Remember His sacrifice for the freedom of our souls from the clutches of evil into the arms of a loving GOD.
- To Honor Jesus’ sacrifice with consecrating reverence.
- And to Understand why He died; that death is not the end.

Application: As you reflect on Jesus’ death, may you experience a kind of vicarious death together with Christ and a reviving of your soul as you are resurrected to new life in Christ. Read the following verses and spend some time meditating on their meaning and how this applies to your life:

- Galatians 2:20
- Romans 6:1-7
- 2 Corinthians 5:17