

At Great Cost – Our Freedom

Memorial Day is a holiday dedicated to remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom so that we could live. And live, we do. In our culture, Memorial Day is also the kickoff of summer. We might be so focused on enjoying the time off that we sometimes forget what it took for us to enjoy the freedoms we have in our lives. Please don't take it for granted.

Soldiers went to war on the battlefields of Europe, fighting against German efforts to control the free world. Japanese bombers attacked US forces in Pearl Harbor, and the battle spread over to the Pacific islands. Succeeding generations fought in Korea and the jungles of Vietnam in Southeast Asia. More recently, the conflicts spread into the Middle East. **In each case, the quest for freedom was greater than just for ourselves.**

Jesus came to earth for the cause of humanity. That is as big as it gets. Adam and Eve were not content to live in God's perfect world. They wanted to be in control and have their will and their way. Their rebellious thoughts continue today and are considered "human nature." We, too, need a savior. Jesus came to earth to give His life for our sins. It was the only way we could be right with the Heavenly Father.



As six Marines raised the American flag in this iconic photo, the battle was yet to be won at Iwo Jima. Three of the six pictured here sacrificially lost their lives later in this battle. At great cost, Iwo Jima was a monumental victory. Our freedom from sin was also won at great cost – the earthly life of Jesus Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin. *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).*

Because of man's sinful nature, others sacrifice for the cause of freedom worldwide. Members of the armed forces continually put their lives on the line for our freedom. For some, the cost is high -- the supreme sacrifice. *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).* They did it for us.

This Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for us and followed the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is designated as a holiday, so we will have time to remember the supreme sacrifice. Our future would not be the same without it.

Question: What do you do on Memorial Day to remember and express your appreciation for those who sacrificed their lives for your freedom?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. Our lives would not be the same without the sacrifice of those who have gone on before us. Sacrifice is the only way to overcome the sins of this world. We honor the sacrifice of those who served in our military to protect our freedoms. And we honor the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and gave us the hope for eternal life. Amen.