

**MEMORIAL DAY 5-29-16**  
**BUILDING A GOOD MEMORIAL BY YOUR WORKS THAT FOLLOW YOU**

Ecclesiastes 6:12 For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Ecclesiastes 7:2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

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Ecclesiastes 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

Ecclesiastes 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

The custom of memorial day was born in Waterloo New York in 1865, when a druggist in the town suggested a social gathering that would honour the graves of those who died in the civil war.. The next year It was mentioned to General John B. Murry who embraced the idea.. and in 1868 a General Order was made establishing a day for decorating the graves of those who died in the civil war ..

The Holiday is basically to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Those who were faithful to serve even unto death.

Now each of us are called to be good soldiers spiritually..

Paul Told Timothy:

II Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

As good soldiers we are expected to be faithful even to Death

We should faithfully serve our commander and chief Jesus Christ.. with our last breath!

Revelation 14:13 says:

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Note: it says their works do follow them. These works leave behind a testimony, a Memorial so to speak. Lasting fruit. This morning I want to share how our works that follow us will be our memorial.

Now let me suggest to you that we are building a memorial by these works that will follow us..

Just yesterday Ethel Stankus went home to be with the Lord.. I remember visiting her with Frank when she first went into the nursing home. Right to the end she was concerned about being faithful to the Lord.. She reminded Frank to put her tithe in the offering..

I believe that she built a good memorial before her family and others all these years.. God had mercy on her and she went to sleep and never woke up..

Now someday each of us are going to be called home to the Lord.. and will it be said of us..

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Part of the works that will follow us I believe are the memories.. or memorials we leave behind!

We should be building these memorials.. and these are the memorials... the works that we leave behind that follow us straight to heaven some day!

This Morning I want to talk to you about the WORKS that follow us .. and how we can be investing in these works...

**I. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY FOCUSING OUR LABOURS ON PROFITABLE THINGS**

**II. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY ESTABLISHING WORKS THAT WILL LAST**

**III. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY REALIZING THAT WE ARE HERE TO FINISH THE WORK THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**

**FIRST:**

**I. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY FOCUSING OUR LABOURS ON PROFITABLE THINGS**

Originally memorial day was a day set aside to decorate the graves of soldier who died in action during the civil war.. now we honour all those who died in any war. Let us consider that God has a memorial for all those who sacrificed for the Kingdom of God.

In Rev 14:13 says God honours all those who died faithfully serving Him... These are mentioned as the dead who die in the Lord.....

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

As long as we have breath in our lungs God has given that life so that we can labour for Him....

This text says that those who faithfully serve the Lord unto death will not be forgotten..

Every person that leaves behind a good memorial in this life is a person who will have a heart to labour for God...

Tabitha was an example of a godly woman whose works followed her:

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

Notice how her works did testify of her godliness..

## **1. HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT THINGS ARE WORTH LABOURING FOR?**

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

There are many things we can do in this life... Jesus said.. don't labour for things that will perish... They are not profitable.. they won't last..

Most people wrap their whole lives up in things that are perishing... We spend more time worrying about things that will perish..

We only have a limited amount of time in this life...

I am thinking of a man who I knew many years ago when I was a young preacher. Never knew a more hard working man... Talked to him time and time again about his need for the Lord.. when he was sick in the Hospital went there and witnessed to him. But he would not receive Christ. How sad it was he died lost without the Lord.

When he died while the funeral was taking place.. his children brought a U-Haul and broke into his shed and stole away all his tools. What works followed him? His remembrance was desecrated by his own children. His belongs stolen. No good work followed him. But worse of all as far as I can tell he never made it to heaven! What profit was all his work in his vain life? He had no long lasting eternal work.

## **I. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY FOCUSING OUR LABOURS ON PROFITABLE THINGS**

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT THINGS ARE PROFITABLE TO LABOUR FOR?

### **1. Only those things we do that please the Lord are really profitable..**

What are those things that will not perish?

## HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD BE LABOURING FOR?

Are they not those things that we do to please.. the Lord..

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Every minute spent laboring to please the Lord is a minute well spent. However, how do we know what pleases the LORD!

It is profitable to please the Lord but Sometimes we need to spend more time learning about what pleases the Lord than just spinning our wheels doing....

The story of Mary and Martha is a good example works that will last:

Luke 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Sometimes... we need to spend more time hearing the word of the Lord and learning about what really pleases Him than running around doing and being cumbered about much serving..

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

There are a lot of people running around doing things that they say is for the Lord and the truth is they are doing it for themselves..

People singing music... not for the Lord but for themselves...

Fact is if they were doing it for the Lord they would't be getting in the flesh all the time.. getting proud upset about little things.. etc..

Martha was all upset... not because she was serving the Lord but because she was doing what she wanted to do all in the name of the Lord..

WHAT IS THE GREATEST EVIDENCES THAT A PERSON IS LABOURING FOR TEMPORAL REWARD AND NOT REALY SEEKING TO PLEASE THE LORD IN THEIR LABOURS?

Don't be like Martha who spent little time sitting at the feet of Jesus. She was more concerned about outward show than pleasing the Lord from the heart.

Sometimes we see many ladies wanting to do volunteer work.. but have no time to come to listen to the Word of God preached.

God is not pleased with service above obedience. Our duty is to know and to do His good pleasure. But before we can do we must know what to do. A ministry is not going to make you closer to God.

Obedience will bring you closer to God...

REMEMBER THE LESSON THAT KING SAUL SHOULD HAVE LEARNED BY NOT DOING WHAT GOD COMMANDED HIM AND COVERED UP HIS DISOBEDIENCE UNDER THE GUISE OF OFFERING BURNT OFFERINGS TO THE LORD.. SAMUEL REMINDED HIM WHEN HE SAID,

"... Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams....

I Samuel 15:22

Martha was busy doing and not hearing, Mary was intent in hearing and she did something more profitable.

The evidence that you are not doing what is profitable is seen when you have a critical spirit towards others who are not doing what you think they should but are spending time in the word of God.. If you are doing what God wants you to do why are you looking at others? Are you doing it unto the Lord or unto others!

**2. Only those things that we do in response to the Word of God are really what pleases the Lord**

When we are too busy serving to hear the Word of God.. this is evidence that we are not doing things for the Lord

**3. Only those things that we do through the leading of the spirit are pleasing to God**

When we do things with a bad spirit this is evidence we are not really seeking to please the Lord..

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Can't walk in the flesh and expect that our labour will be pleasing to the Lord..

When we find ourselves walking in the flesh it is time to sit at the feet of Jesus and reset our own spiritual circuit breaker.

The Good works that will follow us to heaven need to be the right kind of works motivated by the right kind of spirit. Not the Martha Spirit!

## **II. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY ESTABLISHING WORKS THAT WILL LAST**

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

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WHAT ARE THE WORKS THAT WILL LAST?

### **1. *The works that will last are those things that we do that will continue here on earth even after we are gone....***

These are memorials of what we said and did...

Jesus said do this in remembrance of me...

Their works do follow them!...

He called communion a sign of the New Testament in His blood. The Apostle Paul recorded It was a memorial He said,

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Ecclesiastes 6:12 For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?  
Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

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Ecclesiastes 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Will we have a good name, when we leave this world...

There are some who have left our assembly with a good name and are now in heaven... And at their funerals we were able to laud them with praise and we have the assurance that they graduated our congregation being recommended to the courts of heaven...

I always thought I would dread the day when we had a close member of our church die...

That day came when Selwyn Schmitt went home to be with the Lord..

SELWYN SCHMITT AND MARION SCHMITT:

Selwyn left our assembly with a good name...

Plowed snow....

Changed light bulbs...

Turned off the lights... 1st came to the church I remember Selwyn coming upstairs to turn off all the lights..

Cleaning the floors with Marion. Marion served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher, she worked in our christian school. Labored and served...

Baptismal waters,, checked..

GERTRUDE LEWIS: Left behind a good name

Made sure her boys were walking with the lord..

I remember at Selwyn Schmitt's funeral Gertrude asking me... she said "Pastor is envy wrong" I said why Gertrude? She said.. because I envy what Selwyn is seeing right now in heaven. Three weeks to the day she also died and we had her funeral at the church.

Bob Snyder: Left with a good name..

Bob worked 3rd shift.. get off work at 7:00 A.M. he was here at 9:45 to teach Sunday School.

Gladys Delesandro: Left our assembly with a good name... here in church up until the week before she died..

Hank Accardi: Left our assembly with a good name... signs donated in memory of him.

Anna Jones, and many others have left our assembly with a good name and their works do follow them. On and on I can share testimonials of folks whose works do follow them at our church.

## **2. The works that will last are living works, which involve input into the lives of people for salvation and spiritual growth...**

So many could not be bothered with trying to reach souls for Christ..

No excuse for not trying to bring some young person to Sunday School...

SPURGEON SOUGHT FOR THE SALVATION OF CHILDREN

SPURGEON ONCE SAID:

".... children are the most impressible. What can we do with the man who is hardened in sin? The grace of God can reach him, I know; but the children as yet have not known these evil ways; they are horrified when they hear about them. Teach them. While yet the clay is soft, mould it for God. May the Lord himself help you, dear Sunday-school teachers, and others who labor amongst the children, to do your work right well! Nobly are you serving your own generation, and the generation to follow. The salvation of the children ought to be sought with double diligence, for they will last the longest. If a man of sixty or seventy is converted, he will have only a short time for serving God here; for he will soon be gone. If a child is converted, a long life of usefulness may enrich the church of God. Therefore, look after the children. If you had a gathering of

Christian men and women, and were to put the question to them, "How many of you were saved at an early age it would amaze you.

The most effective workers for Christ are those who are saved in their youth. Ecc. 12:1 Serve Him in the Days of thy youth

**3. *The works that will follow are works that are focused in building the true Church of Jesus Christ.. which others can add to down the road and will remain even after you are gone..***

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

I Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

I Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

I Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

An Old man dying once said to me "I fear to stand before God because I will have nothing to show for it because I was not faithful in the local church..."

If you are not building the Church of Jesus Christ you are not building for God... Jesus came to earth and said...

**I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH AND THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT!**

When Paul made havoc of the Church... Jesus personally came to him and said..

Acts 26:14 ... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 26:15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

**JESUS SAID WHEN YOU ATTACK HIS CHURCH YOU ATTACK HIM**

**JESUS SAID IF YOU BUILD HIS CHURCH YOU BUILD WITH HIM...**

**WHICH MAN IN THIS CONGREGATION HAS A PERFECT WIFE?**

**HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE ATTACKED YOUR WIFE FOR HER IMPERFECTIONS?**

**THAT'S HOW JESUS FEELS ABOUT HIS CHURCH...**

**BUILD THE CHURCH DON'T TEAR IT DOWN..**

**SEEK THE WELFARE OF HIS CHURCH NOT IT'S HURT...**

### **III. WE BUILD A GOOD MEMORIAL BY REALIZING THAT WE ARE HERE TO FINISH THE WORK THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**

#### **1. Unless we finish the work that God gave us to do we will not be rewarded.. We must endure in our profession if we are truly His..**

Ezekiel 18:21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 18:22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.

Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

Ezekiel 18:24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

Ezekiel 18:25 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

Ezekiel 18:26 When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

Ezekiel 18:27 Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

Ezekiel 18:28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 18:29 Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

Ezekiel 18:30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

#### **2. It is not how you start that counts but how you finish...**

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The week after Spurgeon died Mrs. Spurgeon chose a message that her husband had preached to be read. She entitled the message:

My Own Funeral Message, here is an excerpt from the message:

Some, too, begin well, and they serve their God earnestly for a time, but on a sudden their service stops. One cannot quite tell how it happens, but we never hear of them afterwards. Men, as far as I know them, are wonderfully like horses. You get a horse, and you think, "This is a first-rate animal," and so it is. It goes well for a while, but on a sudden it drops lame, and you have to get another. So it is with church-members. I notice that, every now and then, they get a singular lameness. To very many we have to say, even as Paul said to the Galatians, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the truth?"

On what basis can we say that a person has run their race well? Is it not that they endured to the end... They were faithful unto death... they served God and were faithful church members all the way till the end..

These are the true soldiers.. these are the ones that we should honour this memorial day... these are our christian hall of fame... our civil war veterans.. those who fought the fight and finished their course..

WILL YOU GO DOWN IN THE HALL OF FAME.. OF GOD'S SAINTS... WILL YOU FINISH WELL???

WHAT HAS MADE CHRISTIANITY GREAT THROUGH THESE YEARS.. IS IT NOT THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL EVEN UNTO DEATH THAT HAS CAUSED THE FAITH TO TRIUMPH?

FOXES BOOK OF MARTYRS

During the days of fierce opposition.. of Rome against christians.. How many people have been more effected through the death of God's people more so then their lives..

THE IMPACT THAT A CHRISTIAN HAS HAD IS MORE KNOWN AFTER THEIR DEATH THEN IN THEIR LIFE..

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

In foxes book of Martyrs here are a few excerpts of the testimonies of some brave martyrs of the past.. John Foxe writes:

In Mount Ararat many were crucified, crowned with thorns, and spears run into their sides, in imitation of Christ's passion. Eustachius, a brave and successful Roman commander, was by the emperor ordered to join in an idolatrous sacrifice to celebrate some of his own victories; but his faith (being a Christian in his heart) was so much greater than his vanity, that he nobly refused it. Enraged at the denial, the ungrateful emperor forgot the service of this skillful commander, and ordered him and his whole family to be martyred.

Another Account is given here:

At the martyrdom of Faustines and Jovita, brothers and citizens of Brescia, their torments were so many, and their patience so great, that Calciferous, a pagan, beholding them, was struck with admiration, and exclaimed in a kind of ecstasy, "Great is the God of the Christians!" for which he was apprehended, and suffered a similar fate.

What inspired Christianity to blossom most under hardships and persecution? Was it not that there was a group of faithful christians who would lay down their lives and be faithful all the way to the end...

The 2nd-century Church Father Tertullian wrote that "the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church," implying that the martyrs' willing sacrifice of their lives leads to the conversion of others.

SO THEIR WORKS DID FOLLOW THEM AND OTHERS WERE MOVED TO FAITH BECAUSE OF THEIR BRAVERY AND WILLINGNESS TO DIE FOR OUR LORD...

Whether we live or die it should be for the Lord...

Testimonies of those who have fought a good fight:

THOSE WHOSE WORKS WILL FOLLOW THEM AND LEAVE A GOOD MEMORIAL  
THOSE WHO WE HONOR THIS MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

**1. Are those who were faithful to the Lord to the end....**

So many are faithful only for a little while..

The Christian life is a race till the end.. It would be good that you make a resolve and a commitment that you will serve the Lord faithfully till the end..

**2. Those who deserve to be honored this memorial service are those who supported the local church and remained loyal to the end.**

There are many good people who abandon his church the latter years of their life..

Like Uzziah in II Chronicles 26:16, There are Many a christian struck down with the leprosy of pride and live their latter years isolated from the congregation and in exile from the church...

There are many a Uzziah... sometimes they have been a trustee or even a deacon.. a faithful church member who thinks that they know better than the Pastor.... so they are going to take the helm and run the program .... So it was with Uzziah and God struck him with leprosy because of his pride..

**3. Those who deserve to be honored are those who left behind a heritage and have built the work of God and have left us the benefits of their works**

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

This is memorial day weekend and according to US records there are a total of 1,319,475 who have died in wars for the United States in the past. The US is keeping records and you mark it down that the God in Heaven is also keeping records of all those who have been faithful for Him.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.