

Remembering With Grateful Hearts A Memorial Day Commentary

By Lenward C. Hood

As we observe Memorial Day, we remember our predecessors for their service and sacrifice and we do so with thanksgiving, gratefulness and appreciation.

Our thanks must first be to God who gave us our love ones to share. Additionally, our gratefulness is to God who is preeminent. He was the first to use the word memorial to remember the sacred and sacrificial work of a servant. We are taught by scripture to memorialize the sacred name of God. Exodus 3:15 teaches us to remember who God is by His name., “This is my name forever and this is my memorial to all generations.” In the New Testament scripture, we are taught to memorialize sacrificial and good work. Matthew 26:7 tells us of a woman who sacrificed the material gain that she could have received from a very precious ointment by using it for a noble and sacred cause as she poured it on the head of Jesus. Matthew 26:10 tells us that a good work had been done. Matthew 26:13 teaches us that what the woman had done should be told as a memorial of her. Scripture does not tell us the woman’s name; therefore, we can only memorialize her sacrificial good work. On Memorial Day, we remember the Unknown Soldier; although, we do not know his name. We remember his sacrificial work in defense of our nation.

Each time we observe Memorial Day, we pattern our conduct after God in honoring the memory of those whose sacrifice demonstrated a greater love for others than themselves.

As part of a grateful nation, with a heart of thanksgiving, I join others in honoring the memory of those who gave their last full measure of devotion so that we are preserved as one nation under God.