



SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MESSAGE FOR MAY

G. Bernice Richardson, Secretary

Opening Song: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

Prayer: *(As led by the Spirit)*

Scripture: *Isaiah 41:10-16*

Meditation: "Memorial Day"

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed at the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Today, **Memorial Day** here in the United States serves as a day to remember those who have served both their generation and the generations to come through their heroic defense of freedom. I think it is fitting and good to honor those who have sacrificed for others. As a Christian, I see this day as a gigantic arrow pointing to a more **Memorial Day**. I think of the greatest man who ever lived and who gave the ultimate sacrifice to purchase freedom for a great multitude. I am of course talking about the greatest hero to ever live and die, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the mission he was on. He was born to die; there was never another option. And further the very thing that he was coming to die for was what killed him. So today as you see the flowers, watch the news, or enjoy the day off, remember that those folks were heroes indeed, but they were not Saviors. They did not die for our redemption. Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the true preeminent hero; for he is the one, the only one, who could and would give his life as a sacrifice for

sinners. The most "**Memorial Day**" is the bloody, dark, sin-stained day of Golgotha where the Prince of Heaven became the price for heathens. Take time this **Memorial Day** to meditate upon this reality missionaries. Jesus Christ, under no obligation to you, came to willfully offer up his life as a sacrifice for rebels. He satisfied divine wrath and secured a nation of redeemed sinners.

Furthermore, you need not go to his grave to pay tribute or leave flowers, instead this hero stands alive in the posture of preeminence even now reigning at the right hand of God enjoying the incense of his perfection. He does not ask for sorrow, for pity, or for tears of grief, instead Jesus Christ demands worship. He demands that rebels such as us find him to gloriously beautiful and worthy of our highest joy and treasure.

Closing Song: "In The Beauty of Holiness"

Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Give Him the honor. Give Him the praise. Come let us worship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise.

Worship Him. Worship Him. Give my God the glory. Give my God the praise. Worship Him. Worship Him. Come let us worship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father:

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. We ask this in **Your** name. **AMEN**