



Sermon  
Chaplain (Maj) Lang Yang  
Civil Air Patrol  
United States Air Force Auxiliary

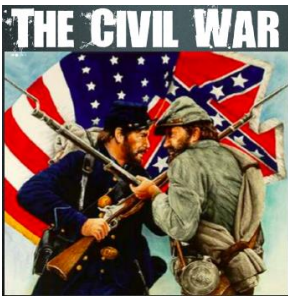
## “To Those Who Die That Other May Live”

Memorial Day  
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church  
5-29-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**John 11:50** “Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” (Cross reference – Matthew 5:29, John 18:14)

Illustration “Remembering” (Show decorating cemetery in honor of those who die)



In 1867 some deeply caring women of Columbus, Mississippi, decorated not only the graves of their own dead who had given their lives in the great Civil War which had just ended, but also the graves of the Northern soldiers who were buried there. This extremely noble act inspired others do to the same, and the annual custom eventually became our nation-wide Memorial Day. It has become a beautiful day of tribute, celebrated with music, parades, speeches, and the decorating of the graves of those who have died in the wars of our nation. It has become

an effective way of helping us remember those who have made it possible for us to be where we are and have what we have today and those who have paid the supreme sacrifice of their lives so that other may live in peace and harmony.

I. People like to remember (Show Century of Warfare)



that those who live to the fullest, meaning live a long life with richness, blessedness with many generations and those who die to make the full life possible for others so that others may have the life of freedom and peace. It is saddened to say that through out history, others must sacrifice so that others may live. It was true with century of warfare, like WWI, WWII, Korean War, Viet-Nam War, and It was true with any war in any country that others must die so that others may live. (Show Dr. Marin Luther King Jr.)



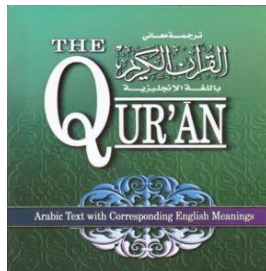
It was true with the struggle in America during the Civil Rights Era of the 50’s and 60’s. People died for people, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and kill. He died on behalf of the oppressed. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “...all men are created equal.” He also said, “If a man hasn’t discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.” Memorial Day reminds us this historical principle that some of us must be sacrificed for the rest of us. None of us would doubt for a moment that American is the great nation that it is because so many gave their lives to make it possible. (Show what would happen if Hitler had won)



If blood had not been shed in all the previous wars, those protestors in the streets of America may not of have the right to protest the recent war in Iraq, war in Afghanistan, war in the Middle East and any others war before that. I often wondered what would happened to America and others nations had Hitler gotten his way and ruled the world as a dictatorship? I’m pretty sure that if this were to happen, there would not be the freedom

of protest or the democracy that we have today. But because blood was shed, we have the freedoms we have today. American warriors from every branch have given their lives for our land, our liberty, and our peace.

Others religion may tell you that if you die for your religion by killing others people because they don't have the same belief as your belief then you will guaranteed life in heaven. (Show the Qur'an)



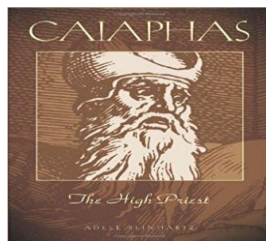
For example, the Quran contains at least 109 verses that call Muslims to war with nonbelievers for the sake of the Islamic faith. Some are quite graphic, with commands to chop off heads and fingers and kill infidels wherever they may be hiding. Muslims who do not join the fight are called 'hypocrites' and warned that Allah will send them to Hell if they do not join the slaughter. The [Quran \(2:191-193\)](#) said *"And kill them wherever you find them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. And Al-Fitnah [disbelief or unrest] is worse than killing... but if they desist, then lo! Allah is forgiving and merciful. And fight them until there is no more Fitnah [disbelief and worshipping of*

others along with Allah] and worship is for Allah alone. But if they cease, let there be no transgression except against Az-Zalimun (the polytheists, and wrong-doers, etc.)"

(Translation is from the Noble Quran) The problem is that the Muslim are not a bad people, but those that chose to believe the Islamic teaching is just a bad ideology. They don't understand that you are to love your neighbor as yourself and love your enemies etc.

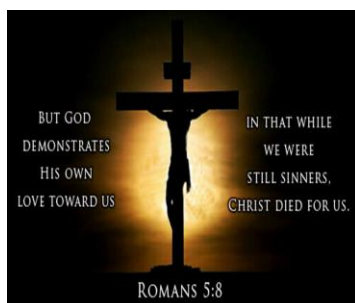
(<http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/pages/quran/violence.aspx>)

- II. In John chapter 11, the Apostle write that after Jesus just raise Lazarus from the dead and more and more people believing in Jesus. The Pharisee and the chief priests was afraid that if Jesus continue to perform miracles he will have more follower. (Show the High Priest Caiaphas)



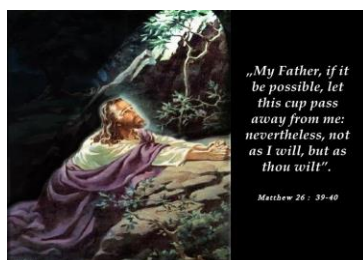
They were afraid that if this happen then Rome may accuse them of having a political revolution and this will bring destruction to Israel. Instead of believing that Jesus is the Messiah, they plot to kill Jesus instead. This is why the chief priest Caiaphas said, *"Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish."* (John 11:50) Scripture tell us that Caiaphas was the high priest but he didn't speak on his own accord. He prophesized that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation. (John 11:51)

John wrote again that *"Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better if one man died for the people."* (John 18:14) (Show Romans 5:8)



Jesus is our example of those who are willing to die in order that others may live. He had to die for the sin of the world (Romans 5:8) and given the world a chance to believe and trusting him as Lord and Savior so that the world could live. Jesus Christ didn't have to go through the punishment so that you and I can live, but because of His love, he willingly go to the cross so that you and I may have life. Would you be willing to die for someone so that they can live? We human may talked the talked of being tough that sometime we said, "I'm willing to die for you" but when the time come, people tend to run the opposite direction and let the other person die instead.

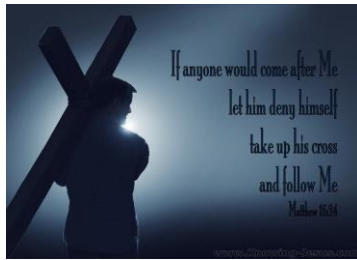
In our human side, we want to go on living if anything that can replace death. (Show Matthew 26:39)



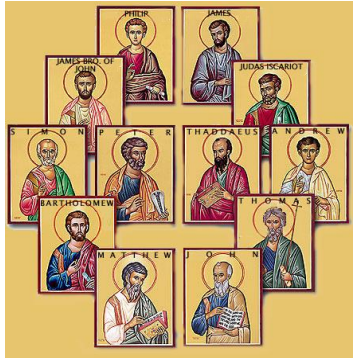
At the Garden of Gethsemane we see Jesus prayer, Jesus said, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39) On the human nature, Jesus turned to God to see if there is another way that He didn't have die to save the world? But Jesus said, "not as I will, but as you will." Do you see how much Jesus love you? Jesus will bore His own cup of suffering according to the Father's will of sacrificing Himself for the sin of the world.



- III. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, being a follower of Christ is not just a religious activity. Jesus doesn't call you just to join a club or belong to an organization. (Show Matthew 16:24)



His called was clearly said, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (Matthew 16:24). The disciples knew that when a man decided to "take up his cross," he was not simply bearing a burden, but willing to die for a cause. **Matthew** suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword at a distant city of Ethiopia. **Luke** was hanged upon an olive tree in the land of Greece. **John** was put in a caldron of boiling oil, but escaped death in a miraculous manner, and was afterwards banded to the Island of Patmos. **Peter** was crucified at Rome with his head downward. (Show Apostle Martyr)

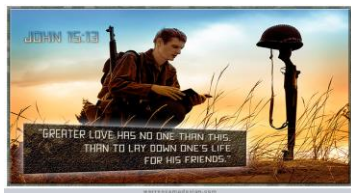


**James** the Greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem and **James** the less, was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club. **Nathaniel** was flayed alive (peel or beat the skin of a person or animal), **Andrew** was bound to a cross, and while he hung on the cross he kept preaching to his persecutors until he died. **Thomas** was run through the body with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies, **Jude** was shot to death with arrows. **Matthias** was first stoned and then beheaded, **Barnabus** of the Gentiles was stoned to death at Salonica. **Paul**, after various tortures and persecutions, was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero. (<http://credohouse.org/blog/what-happened-to-the-twelve-apostles-how-do-their-deaths-prove-easter>) (Show Christian persecution)



For almost three hundred years Christianity was a forbidden thing. Christians were publicly whipped, dragged by their heels through the streets until their brains ran out. Their limbs were torn off, their ears and noses were cut off, and their eyes were dug out with sharp sticks or burned out with hot irons. That was not all, sharp knives were run under their finger nails.

Melted lead was poured over their bodies. They were drowned, beheaded, crucified, ground between stones, torn by wild beasts, burning in a furnace, scraped to death by sharp shells, and continue to killed by suing other cruel methods. But as horrible as these events were, they all served a purpose. (Show John 15:13)



You see when we confess to be Christian, we need not take it lightly because to be Christian is to be Like Christ. And to willing to endure those things that Christ endured. He shed His precious blood in order that millions of His followers may have life. Not just life on this earth, but eternal life with Him in heaven. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) (Show Memorial Day)



All of us are not called upon to die heroically or sacrificially. Those soldiers who lost their lives in the war fighting for us were called upon to serve this country, and in the processed they paid the ultimate sacrifice. And we owe them a debt of gratitude on this Memorial Day. Let us come together in prayer for all the bereaved families today and let us continue to pray for the leader of this nations. In remembrance, we honor those who die that others may live. Let us together look to Jesus for His saving grace by dying on the cross so that we may live. Thanks be to God. Amen  
Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.