

Remembering How Much It Costs

Genesis 9:8-17

Remembering How Much It Costs

- “Freedom is not free. It is purchased by the blood of fallen patriots.”
- More than 40 million men have served in our American military. More than 1.3 million men have died defending our freedom. That comes to more than 1.8 million gallons of blood shed to secure our liberty.
- “Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. America’s collective consciousness demands that all citizens recall and be aware of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime.” *(Article on VFW website)*

Remembering How Much It Costs

- God is the Originator of memorials; they are appropriate and authorized.
 - The very first memorial was a rainbow - Gen. 9:16
- When God rescued Abraham's descendants from Egyptian slavery, He established a memorial so they would not forget -- the Passover.
 - Ex. 12:26-27 - "And it shall be, when your children say to you, What do you mean by this service? 27 that you shall say, It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households. So the people bowed their heads and worshiped."

Remembering How Much It Costs

- Jesus established a memorial of Christian's deliverance from bondage in sin.
 - Matt. 26:26-28 - "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body. 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Remembering How Much It Costs

- Jesus does not want Christians to forget the consequences of our sins and the cost of our deliverance.
- As with all memorials, there is a danger of it becoming an empty ritual.

Americans Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom

- We should remain aware of the price paid in order to appreciate our freedom.
- We have done nothing to deserve our freedom. It is a gift of God and those who built this nation
- Many have lost sight of the value of their freedoms and the price paid for it.
- By nature, people do not value what they did not earn or purchase.
- Those who fail to appreciate the value of their freedom also fail to protect and preserve it.

Americans Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom

- Our freedoms are not guaranteed; they must be defended.
- Thomas Jefferson warned, “The cost of freedom is eternal vigilance.”
- It is important to remember those who paid for our freedom
 - Rom. 13:7 - “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”
- God gave America this freedom to use to His glory; use it or lose it.

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- At one time, we allowed ourselves to be ensnared in sin
 - Ecc. 7:20 - “For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.”
 - Rom. 3:10, 23 - “As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - Eph. 2:12 - “That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- There are unavoidable consequences for sin
 - Nahum 1:3 - “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.”
 - 2Thes. 1:7-8 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Like physical death, spiritual death, is a condition from which no one can rescue himself
 - Luke 17:10 - “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.”
 - Prov. 20:9 - “Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”
 - Psalm 49:7-8 - “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him 8 For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Only the precious blood of God's Only Begotten Son could pay our ransom.
 - Matt. 1:21 - "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."
 - Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- God made the ultimate sacrifice to make us free from the bondage of sin.
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Eph. 2:1-10 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Remember the words of our veterans:
“Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance.”
- This is equally true of the sacrifice of Jesus; it must be remembered or it has no meaning to us.

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Knowing how forgetful people tend to be, our Lord created and dedicated a memorial for us
 - 1Cor. 11:23-26 - “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Let us be grateful for the religious heritage into which we were born.
- Our country
 - Psalm 33:12 - “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...”
 - Prov. 13:34 - “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.”
- The church and our local congregation

Christians Must Remember The Cost Of Freedom From Sin

- Let us joyfully accept the responsibility laid on us.
- As freedom was entrusted to us, so we must pass it on to those who will come after us.
- As others shared the free gift of eternal life with us, so we must share it with others.
- As this congregation was passed down to us, so we must pass it down to others who will come after us.
- As the truth was committed to us, so we must commit it to the next generation
 - 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”