

HONORING THEIR SACRIFICES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

INTRODUCTION: Tomorrow we will pause as a nation to remember those who have lived and died in defense of our nation. It all began in 1863, in Columbus, Missouri. After the First World War, the day was set aside to honor the dead of all American Wars. Also, the day was extended to pay homage to deceased relatives and friends, both military and civilian. Our nation has fought many wars in its short history of 246 years. These wars have cost many lives of many fine young men and women.

I. THE HIGH COST OF FREEDOM!

Out of our 246 years as a nation we have spent 64 years in wars. That is one year out of every four involved in wars. Our Lord said: John 15:12-13. Over the years 1,180,021 men and women have given their lives for our freedoms. Should we not pause once a year to remember their sacrifices?

II. HAVE WE LEARNED THE LESSON SO WE WILL HAVE NO MORE WARS?

Sadly, the Biblical answer is no! Daniel 9:26: Our Lord Jesus said: Matthew 24:4-6. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863: Our ancestors gave their lives so that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. What should be our response to their sacrifices? We must carry on the struggle that they sacrificed their lives for. Always remember "Freedom is not license to do what you want but liberty to do what you ought

III. THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM IS NOT OVER!

We must each use our freedom to guarantee that future generations of Americans can be free. Remember that it is not only on the battle fields that freedoms are maintained. The battle for our freedom is not over. James 4:1-2. There will always be those who want to take away our freedoms. We must continue the fight against them because only then will our children and our children's children have the freedom to live as we have lived. The freedoms of the Bill of Rights of citizens of the United States of America passed in 1791 are already being lost. We are losing the right of public prayer. Our Supreme Court in 1973 said that abortion on demand is what the constitution guaranteed. Yet our constitution that life is one of the self-evident rights we have. Since 1973 over 63,000,000 babies have been legally killed in our nation. We must not give up the struggle for our babies right to life!

