

The Riches of our Inheritance

May 23rd & 24th, 2015

Ephesians 1:18

*“...that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you,
what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,”*

Memorial Day

- ❖ Memorial Day was first established on May 30, 1868 following the Civil War to remember the soldiers who had died. It has become a time to remember our loved ones and others who have gone before us and because of their lives we are blessed today.
- ❖ Jesus directed His disciples to be aware of history and to understand that they will reap what others who had gone before them had sown. The disciples were about to be involved in to the eternal work of God!
John 4:37-38 “For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”
- ❖ Jesus told His disciples that the life that God was calling them to would not be easy!
📖 John 15:16-21

The richness of our inheritance in the saints

- ❖ A major part of the richness of our inheritance in the saints is found in the lives of those who have gone before us!
📖 Hebrews 12:1

The cloud of witnesses in Biblical History:

- Abel sacrificed to God in faith! *Hebrews 11:4*
- Enoch lived his life by faith to please God! *Hebrews 11:5; Genesis 5:22-23*
- Noah built the ark by faith and was a herald of righteousness! *Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5*
- Abraham left his home to follow God by faith! *Hebrews 11:8*
- Abraham surrendered the one most dear to him having faith in God’s direction! *Hebrews 11:17-19*
- Isaac and Jacob blessed their children in faith knowing that God’s will was most important for their children! *Hebrews 11:20-21*
- Moses chose to follow God rather than enjoy the pleasures of this world! *Hebrews 11:23-28*
“And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – ” ...These God commended for their faith! (Hebrews 11:32, 39)

The cloud of witnesses in modern History:

- Augustine (354-430): A theologian who greatly influenced Christianity.
- John Wycliffe (1330-1384): He desired to have the Scriptures in the common language and so compiled the first complete English Bible. Translated from the Latin Vulgate, it was considered heresy by the Roman Catholics.
- Jan Hus (1369-1415): A Czech priest in Prague who was a key predecessor of the Protestant movement. He was martyred for his faith by being burned to death. His death fueled the flame of evangelism and influenced the Moravians to spread the gospel to the world!

➤ William Tyndale (1494-1536): He was the first to translate the English Bible directly from the Hebrew and Greek texts. He was Imprisoned and martyred for distributing the Bible and died with the words, “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”

📖 Hebrews 12:1-2

❖ As Christians, we are to be constantly moving toward the finish line of life with joyful endurance as we seek to fulfill God’s call on our lives and bring His truth and light to the world!

Endnotes:

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