

Lest We Forget ...



“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friend.” (John 15:13)

As we take time this month to celebrate one of our nation’s most significant holidays, let’s remember it’s not just about a long weekend get-a-way, backyard barbecues or sales at our favorite mall or department store. The observance of Memorial Day has a much deeper meaning. It’s about the tremendous blessing of freedom and justice we’ve enjoyed across America these many years. It’s about honoring the sacrifice of countless men and women who placed their lives on the line facing seen and unseen dangers protecting our nation. It’s about the families, loved ones and friends our fallen military forces left behind to cherish their memories and legacies. Ultimately, it’s about the sobering awareness that “justice” and “freedom” are never truly free... they come with a high cost. Genuine freedom and justice doesn’t just happen. Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world where evil has escalated and splattered across a vast array of today’s venues and has even manifested in our churches.

We, as Christians and CWU women of faith, do not have to succumb in our endeavors to resist or overcome the realities of the evil we encounter. We’ve been and continue to equip ourselves to be steadfast in our collective initiatives to advocate for freedom and justice. We must never forget the high price paid by the defenders of our land to ensure freedom and justice continue to prevail. We’ve chosen to be anchored in the Holy Bible, believe the promises of our heavenly Father and persevere to mobilize all of our available resources to ensure true freedom and justice for all human beings. The following biblical scriptures galvanize our resolve to champion true freedom and justice:

- Give fair judgment to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. **(Psalm 82:3)**
- Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those who are perishing. Yes, speak up for the poor and the helpless, and see that they get justice. **(Proverbs 31:8-9)**
- Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of the widows. **(Isaiah 1:17)**
- Love ... It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **(1 Corinthians 13:6)**

When we commemorate Memorial Day this month, let’s take some “intentional” time to remember the ultimate sacrifices made by so many of our family, friends and loved ones who gave their lives for us. Meditate on the words of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who said, “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know Me, just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice My life for the sheep.” **(John 10:14-15)** While we enjoy the precious blessing of freedom and justice not only this month but every day, be mindful of their cost ... **Lest we forget!**

Joyfully Submitted,
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CWU Spiritual Formation