A Memorial Day Devotional from Pastor Mark

Today we remember and celebrate those who have served on behalf of the safety and freedom of our nation. We honor the fallen and we salute those who remain with us. We do so because, as many, we applaud those who would put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others. Certainly for their family and friends, but even more remarkably for those who may be considered their enemies should they meet in the street. We may, at times, use the word 'hero' in this regard. A word we would never be found to use lightly.

With this in mind, we would do well to remember our Hero. We are always, at this time of year drawn to thoughts of our Savior, who put Himself in harm's way to save us all. He came not to His family and friends, but to those who would have been considered His enemies. **Col.1:21-** *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.* **Rom.5:8-** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* He came to deliver them by His own death. This is the essence of true heroism. To die for those who are undeserving of the act itself. This Jesus did and proved to be our Champion. Therefore this day we honor His name and celebrate His act.

However, as we do so, we are made mindful that the best way to understand man is by a better understanding of God. When we appreciate what Christ did in the face of rejection and ridicule, what He did for those who didn't even deserve the act, we then can appreciate a bit better the sacrifices of the many who have fought for our country, at times in the face of ridicule and rejection themselves. Thus, it is out of hearts of gratitude to our Savior for what He has done that we also express our gratitude today for all who have served our nation. We thank you for your service, we honor you for all of your sacrifice. May the Lord Himself bless you richly for all that you have done for your fellow man.