

REMEMBERING CHRIST

1. The Need To Remember

- A. We remember the things we need to forget (wrongs) and forget the things we need to remember. **Illus.** Looking at Reno calendar recently.
- B. To combat this problem (and realizing the importance of remembering), men often create memorials:
 - 1. Concepts: Statue of Liberty.
 - 2. Events: Raising flag at Iwo Jima.
 - 3. People: Presidents on Mt. Rushmore, statues, coins, paintings, scholarships, etc.
- C. Certain days are set aside to keep thoughts fresh: Mother's/Father's Day; Thanksgiving; July 4th; President's birthdays.

2. Remembering The Greatest Life - Jesus

- A. Which aspect(s)?
 - 1. Birth - Glorious event - Lk 2:8-15.
 - 2. Baptism - The Spirit descends - Mt 3:13-17.
 - 3. Transfiguration - Mt 17:4 - Peter thought it worth memorializing.
 - 4. Resurrection - Mt 28:1-8.
- B. What should it be like?
 - 1. Grandiose - A "wonder of the world" like the Egyptian pyramids?
 - 2. Fixed - Followers would make annual pilgrimages, like Muslims to Mecca?
 - 3. Valuable - Gems, precious metals of inestimable worth?
- C. When Jesus institutes His memorial, it is none of these things - Mt 26:26-28.
 - 1. The birth of Jesus - A warm, fuzzy feeling that all babies radiate. This image **affirms** what we are, is **non-threatening** and of joy, hope.
 - 2. The death of Jesus - **Obligates** us, convicts us of what we **are not**, tells us

of our weaknesses and needs.

3. The element of blood: the new covenant, remission of sins.

a. This, too, carries the ideas of hope, freedom, love.

b. But we cannot escape the fact that it took **DEATH** to save us, to inaugurate a new covenant.

3. Honoring Christ and His Memorial

A. How “alive” this act of remembering must have been on Pentecost! Our challenge is to maintain a sense of liveliness and vitality of Jesus.

B. **Warning!** Do not corrupt - I Cor 11:27-29. Not an empty ritual but a remembrance of the heart.

C. A proclamation - I Cor 11:26. Brighter than Christmas lights, decorations; more universal than a stationary statue; more enduring than bronze or stone - for it is founded in the hearts of believers.