



A DAY TO REMEMBER

Celebrate unending life.

by BOB HOSTETLER

IT MARKED THE UNOFFICIAL beginning of summer every year. On the last Monday in May, the family car filled with the perfume of fresh flowers as young and old journeyed to the cemetery, rain or shine.

Through the entry gate, around the bend, across the way, they stopped at the family plot, the last resting place of still-loved ones. By midday, the sad, bland graveyards up and down the land were festooned with flowers, flags, photos, and other mementos that said, collectively, “You are loved, and you are not forgotten.”

Following the tragic and widespread sacrifice of World War I, the U.S. government officially declared the last Monday in May to be Memorial Day, a day to remember military personnel from all wars who died and to decorate their graves.

Many families and communities lovingly also included the graves of nonmilitary loved ones in their observance, keeping their memory alive and beautifying their graves.

The custom has waned in some places, but for many it’s still a day to remember — not unlike a memorial observed by followers of Jesus. Jesus Christ’s sacrificial death to pay the price our sins deserved and make it possible for us to obtain forgiveness and

eternal life is remembered not with flowers, flags, or photos, but in an act — one that signifies His body, willingly broken for you, and His blood, lovingly poured out for you. For believers, Jesus’ resurrection recalls the

moment the soul passed from death to life, from a sad and bland existence into the flower of new and abundant life.

Have you made that transition? Has your heart and soul been decorated with the “aroma of life leading to life” (2 Cor. 2:16)? If not, this can be your day to remember by saying a simple and sincere prayer, such as, “Father, thank You for Jesus’ loving sacrifice on the cross. I confess to You my sinfulness and ask You to forgive every wrong I’ve ever done. I humbly accept Your gracious offer of new and abundant life, now and

forever. I turn my life over to Your control and ask You to take charge from now on. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888-537-8720.



Jesus’ resurrection recalls the moment the soul passed from death to life.

BOB HOSTETLER is an award-winning author of 50 books, including *The Red Letter Life* and *The Bard and the Bible: A Shakespeare Devotional*. He lives in Nevada.