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A Weekly Devotional from the
South Green Street Church of Christ

In Remembrance

by Steve Higginbotham

Probably all of us remember where we were and what we were doing when the events of September 11, 2001 unfolded. There are certain events in one's life that, because of the trauma or significance of the event, will never be forgotten. As the one year anniversary of this tragic day in American history has come and gone, I experienced a flood of memories related to the events of that day. I experienced sadness, anger, vulnerability, resolve, and American pride. All this because I remembered.

Mike Benson, a friend of mine, in his daily devotional (www.oakhillcoc.org) added these noteworthy remarks: "May I suggest, dear reader, that there is a far more terrible tragedy that warrants our joint remembrance. Every first day of the week (Acts 20:7), we need to call to memory (1 Cor. 11:23-26) those horrific events which transpired nearly 2,000 years ago:

- We need to remember the murderous plot against the innocent Son (Matt. 26:3-4; Heb. 4:15; 7:26.)
- We need to remember the Lord's internal struggle as He pondered His impending death (Matt. 26:37-39.)
- We need to remember His betrayal at the hands of one of His own disciples (Matt. 26:47-50.)
- We need to remember the ill-informed attempt to thwart His crucifixion (Matt. 26:51-54.)
- We need to remember the disciples' cowardice and how they fled for their lives when He needed them the most (Matt. 26:56.)
- We need to remember the howls of the angry mob as they shouted, "Crucify Him!" (Mark 15:13-14.)
- We need to remember the incredible injustice of both the Jewish and Roman courts (Matt. 26:57ff.)
- We need to remember Pilate's timidity before that bloodthirsty crowd (Matt. 27:24-26; Luke 23:13-25.)
- We need to remember the brutal flogging [i.e., the "little death"] at the hands of the Roman lictors (John 19:1).
- We need to remember Peter's lying about his association with Jesus (Matt. 26:69-75.)
- We need to remember the slanderous mockery of the soldiers, priests, and thieves (Matt. 27:27ff; 39-44.)
- We need to remember the Lord's humiliation as He was stripped of His clothing and numbered with lawless, ungodly men (Isa. 53:12; Matt. 27:28; Heb. 12:2.)
- We need to remember that terrible crown of thorns that was unmercifully forced on His brow (Matt. 27:29.)
- We need to remember the spittle that was sprayed upon His body (Matt. 27:30.) We need to remember that ruthless blow to His head (Matt. 27:30.)
- We need to remember the heavy burden of the cross that was thrust upon His weary shoulders (Matt. 27:32.)
- We need to remember those cruel nails that pierced His hands and feet and how that He was suspended between holy God and sinful man (John 3:14; 12:34.)
- We need to remember the bitter taste of the sour wine mingled with gall (Matt. 27:34.)
- We need to remember His desperate cry to His own Father (Matt. 27:46) and how that heaven itself turned away from His mangled form.
- We need to remember the frightful earthquake that shook the earth the moment the Savior died (Matt. 27:54.)
- Perhaps most importantly, we need to remember that our own sins made this barbaric occasion necessary (1 Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53.)