

MEMORIAL DAY?

DOES OUR CHURCH HAVE ANY BATTLE CASUALTIES?

Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23

I. Killed In Action. Matthew 13:3-4; 18-19

- A. They promised all allegiance to the great Commander, His Commission and His Kingdom... Were taught the plan of salvation... handed out a couple of tracts... and went out against a well-armed, well-trained enemy who "zapped" them at once.
- B. Their faith utterly destroyed, they are beyond help... WE MOURN THEIR LOSS!

II. Missing In Action... Presumed Dead. Matthew 13:5-6; 20-21

- A. We still carry them on the duty roster, but they only show up for "muster" at Christmas, Easter, and Mother's Day. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
- B. If there is spiritual life in them, it is so little that no equipment with which we are supplied can detect it... WE MOURN THEIR LOSS! Rev. 3:1-6

III. Missing In Action... Believed Prisoner. P.O.W. Matthew 13:7; 22

- A. This category is represented by those who are seen on the enemy side of the lines... not ours.
 - 1. We believe they are prisoners. Col. 2:8
 - 2. They identify with the enemy... WE MOURN THEIR LOSS!

IV. Missing In Action... Whereabouts Unknown. 2 Timothy 4:10

- A. We don't know what became of them.
 - 1. They are still on the roster.
 - 2. No one has seen them for a long time.
 - 3. There has been no report of them from the enemy. WE MOURN THEIR LOSS!

V. A.W.O.L... Away Without Leave. Hebrews 6:4-12

- A. They may have "deserted" or have been captured while rendered helpless.
 - 1. The results are the same... they laid down their arms, and ceased to fight... it makes no difference about their oath of loyalty or convictions now... they cannot help anyone... **INSOFAR AS THE BATTLE IS CONCERNED, THEY ARE DEAD! WE MOURN THEIR LOSS.**
 - 2. See Heb. 10:22-26; 2 Pet. 2:20-22

VI. Will We Receive a Metal of Valor or a Dishonorable Discharge.

- A. See Matt. 25:34, 41

Conclusion:

- 1. Our Commander was so concerned about one "missing in action" that He left 99 others in camp, and searched for the one 'missing' until He found him. Luke 15:3-7
- 2. Are you a battle casualty this morning?
- 3. If so God has not left you and He is waiting patiently for you to return to His service.