

Remembrance Sunday

The Centenary of Armistice Day ~ The Great War 1918~2018

Silence and Sacrifice

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The last soldiers went 'over the top' at 4.20am on 11th November 1918. The Armistice was signed at 5am in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne, France. Then, at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of Europe fell silent. The Great War was over.

Now Remembrance Sunday is set aside for us to commemorate those who gave their lives in both World Wars, and the many others who have given their lives in conflicts since 1945. We are very aware that names of mostly young men and women are being added to war memorials throughout the U.K. We are also conscious that many others survive but carry with them terrible injuries. To be silent to remember for just two minutes in the course of a year, seems too little in the light of such overwhelming sacrifice.

In remembering the ultimate sacrifice that so many millions have made so that we might enjoy freedom and our own way of life, we are surely doing the right thing. As Christians ... we believe there is another conflict we should not forget. In the greatest battle ever fought, the world became completely dark for three hours, even though it was midday. All the forces of evil were let loose.

The devil and all his demons, the worst of humanity, and even the wrath of God against all that is rotten in the world, was focused on one Man. It seemed that all hell was let loose.

It happened nearly twenty centuries ago, and today millions of people remember it not by wearing a poppy or even a cross, but by trusting in the fact that it was for them that Jesus' body was broken and His blood poured out. His was the ultimate sacrifice. He died not for any crime He had committed, but for us. In those lonely hours, Jesus carried on Himself the sin of the world. He died so that we might be forgiven.

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Times may have changed, but it is still right to stop, reflect, remember and honour those who died on our behalf...

But how do we honour the One who made the ultimate sacrifice on the cross? When asked a similar question, Jesus replied,

"This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29)

God wants us to put our trust in Jesus. The risen, living Christ wants to become our Lord, Saviour, and Friend.

Many members of the Armed Forces, from across the various ranks would have believed that God exists, that they were known individually by Him. That Jesus Christ gave His life to make it possible for us to know God and that because of Jesus, we can have life after death.