



## Today We Remember

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“Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always a child,” wrote Cicero about 50 years before Jesus was born. In 1905 the famed Spanish philosopher George Santayana paraphrased Cicero as, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Sir Winston Churchill in 1948 gave his version in a speech to the House of Commons, “Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.”

Numerous times Jesus, Himself, challenged His disciples to remember Old Testament history as they contemplated how to live their daily lives. The Hebrew writer goads us to remember the valiant warriors and other heroes who, by faith, accomplished wonderful things for God.

One modern application today would be to remember those who sacrifice to bless and/or to save others. We know that children learn to whom they should give honor by observing the adults in their lives. We also know that Paul, after giving directions to obey the government, told the Roman church to give honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7).

This weekend I hope you will join me in giving honor to the first responders who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 (as well as their family members who also sacrificed so much). David and his mighty men of valor (1 Chronicles 12:16-22) fought against foreign raiders. As verse 21 states, “They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor....”

As we remember the fallen, we must be ever vigilant spiritually as well. As physical hijackers invaded the cockpits of our airliners, so the spiritual emissaries of Satan seek to invade the pilot’s seats of our hearts, our minds and our spirits. Peter warns us in 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour.”

Perhaps you will remember the touching actions of some workers who removed a steel beam cross from the wreckage of the fallen towers and erected it on site. It is yet another reminder to pray for the victims and to remember, lest we, as Churchill said, “fail to learn from history.”