I would ask you to open your Bibles to Romans chapter 5. And please follow along with me as I read verses 6-11.

**ROMANS 5:6-11 (NKJV)**

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
There's a story about a city fella who was visiting relatives on a farm and the farmer gave a whistle and his dog herded the cattle into the corral, then latched the gate with her paw.

The city slicker said, "Wow, that's some dog you've got there. What's her name?" The forgetful farmer thought a minute, then asked, "What do you call that red flower that smells real good and has thorns on the stem?" The city slicker said, "A rose?" "Yeah, that's it!" The farmer turned to his wife and said, "Hey Rose, what did we name this dog?"

One of our greatest human weaknesses is that we tend to forget. We forget where we put our keys. We forget where we left our glasses. We forget where we parked at Wal-Mart. We walk into a room and forget why we are there. We are a forgetful people!

Illustration: A few weeks ago I had an appointment at the Sleep Clinic in Greenville. The doctor looked over my medical history and saw that I have had a problem with sleep apnea for a number of years now. She asked me to explain some of the ways my sleep apnea is affecting me. I told her, "I am becoming more and more forgetful and I'm having a terrible problem with my concentration."

She told me very politely, "Mr. Braziel, these things happen as we get older. This may have more to do with your age than with the sleep apnea." Needless to say, that wasn't what I wanted to hear. And even worse, Linda was sitting right there and she heard it too.
Because of our tendency to forget things we need things to help us remember.

This is why we make a list before we go to the grocery. This is why we write down appointments on the calendar. This is why we leave ourselves “sticky notes. This is why us guys put a sticker on the windshield to remind us when it’s time to change the oil. We need “reminders.” We need things to help us remember.

Something else that helps us to remember is MEMORIALS.

Every gravestone in every cemetery across the world is a memorial to those who have lived and died.

Sometimes we drive across A MEMORIAL BRIDGE or on a MEMORIAL HIGHWAY named in memory of some noble individual who left their mark on humanity.

In Washington D.C. there are Memorials to Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson.

And there are Memorials to Commemorate each of the wars we have fought in.

MEMORIALS help us to REMEMBER. Tomorrow is MEMORIAL DAY, a day when we pause to remember the great sacrifice of those brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom.
Many of the **1.1 million soldiers** who have died in service to our country were just eighteen or nineteen year old boys right out of High School. They never got to go to college, or get married, or have a career. **They sacrificed their all for us.**

We did NOTHING to deserve their sacrifice. We were not worthy of their sacrifice. Yet they freely laid down their lives for all of us. **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. “** *(John 15:13)*

**And think of the COST to all those moms and dads** who sent their sons off to war only to get them back in a flag-draped casket.

**And think of the COST to all those wives** who said a tearful goodbye to their soldier husband at the train station or airport, who became widowed at a very young age.

**And think of the COST to all those little children in this country** who grew up without a daddy who lost his life on a battlefield.

**And think of the COST to the thousands of girlfriends** who sent their soldier boyfriend off to war with the promise of marriage when he got home, who had their hopes and dreams shattered by an enemy bullet.

As President Abraham Lincoln once said, **“War at best is terrible!”**
Here in our scripture text in Romans chapter five, the apostle Paul reminds us of another who sacrificed His life for us; not a soldier, but OUR SAVIOR. Let's take a few minutes to “REMEMBER THE GREATEST SACRIFICE OF ALL.”

First of all, let's consider……

I. Our Great UNWORTHINESS

1. Just as you and I are unworthy of the sacrifice all of our brave soldiers made for us, we are even more unworthy of the sacrifice OUR SAVIOR made for us.

2. Paul uses four terms in this passage to describe just how unworthy you and I are of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

   (A) We were HELPLESS (v.6a)

   “For when we were still without strength.........”

   That word “strength” means “helpless.” “For when we were helpless......

   You and I were “totally helpless” to save ourselves.

   Abraham was helpless to save himself. David was helpless to save himself. Moses and Elijah were helpless to save themselves.
Reg Braziel was helpless to save himself. Edwin Price was helpless to save himself. Miss Margie......Miss Marie......and Mr. Archie were helpless to save themselves. Every last one of us was “helpless” to save ourselves.

Why? Because we were “spiritually dead.” Dead men are helpless. Dead men are powerless. Dead men are without strength! In Ephesians 2:1 Paul tells us we were “dead in our trespasses and sins.” We couldn’t be good enough....or moral enough.....or perfect enough to save ourselves. We were so “helpless” we needed a SAVIOR to makes us ALIVE SPIRITUALLY!

Next Paul tells us........

(B) We were UNGODLY (v. 6)

v.6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

The GODLY ONE died for the ungodly ones.
The HOLY ONE died for the unholy ones.
The PERFECT ONE died for the imperfect ones.
The RIGHTEOUS ONE died for the unrighteous ones.

To be “ungodly” means to be “unlike GOD.” There was a time in our lives when we were without fear for GOD.....without reverence for GOD......without respect for GOD. We didn’t think godly thoughts. We didn’t have godly desires. We didn’t live by godly ways. We were UNGODLY people!
Next Paul tells us......

(C) We were **SINNERS** (v.8)

v.8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.

To “sin” means to “miss the mark.” Romans 3:23 says, “For all.....**ALL** have sinned and **fall short** of the glory of **GOD.**”

Like the proud Pharisees, many Christians have a self-righteous attitude that just because they have been going to Church their whole lives that makes them a pretty decent person. LISTEN! Even if you have been going to Church since the day you were born, you have still “**missed the mark**” over and over and over again! Even on the very best days of our lives, you and I have “**fallen far short** of the glory of **GOD.**”

Our most righteous acts are as “**filthy rags.**” Every one of us has “**stinky feet.**” Everyone of us has “**stained underwear.**” And every last one of us is a **SINNER!** And without JESUS CHRIST we are absolutely **HOPELESS!**

**We were HELPLESS......we were UNGODLY......we were SINNERS......but wait, Paul isn't done yet. He also tells us.....**
(D)  We were God's **ENEMIES**  (v.10)

v.10  For if **when we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

None of us likes to think of ourselves as “enemies of God,” but before one accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that is exactly what he is; an “enemy of God”......”one who is hostile toward God,”........”one who is opposed to God.”

3.  **We were HELPLESS.......we were UNGODLY.......we were SINNERS......we were GOD'S ENEMIES.**  How great was our UNWORTHINESS!

Secondly, let's consider.......  

II.  **Our Savior's Great SACRIFICE**  (vs. 6-8)

6   For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7   For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8   But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
1. CHRIST did the utmost for us when we were the least deserving of it.

2. Four times in these three short verses, Paul reminds us Christ died for us.

   v. 6 “Christ DIED for the ungodly.”

   v. 7. “For scarcely for a righteous man will one DIE, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to DIE.”

   v. 8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ DIED for us.”

3. Though we were HELPLESS Christ died for us! Though we were UNGODLY Christ died for us! Though we were SINNERS Christ died for us! Though we were GOD'S ENEMIES Christ died for us!

4. Christ didn't die for us because we were lovable or deserving or worthy. He didn’t die for us because He saw potential in us. He died for us because we were absolutely powerless to save ourselves.
5. He became **our sacrifice.** He became **our substitute.**
   He **took our punishment.** He got **what we deserved.**

   Love sent my Savior to die in my stead,
   Why should He love me so?
   Meekly to Calvary's cross He was led,
   Why should He love me so?
   Why should He love me so?
   Why should He love me so?
   Why should my Savior to Calvary go,
   Why should He love me so?

6. Until we come to see our total depravity, and worthlessness, and our powerlessness to save ourselves, we cannot fully appreciate **the love and sacrifice Jesus made for us.**

7. You see, for the Christian, **everyday should be MEMORIAL DAY.** Every day we ought to **remember the great sacrifice Christ made for us, and give thanks to GOD for His unspeakable gift.**
Each year a third grade teacher would tell her students the story of “The Ant and The Grasshopper.” All summer long the ant worked hard to store up food for the cold winter months while the grasshopper played and jumped around all day long. When the cold, winter months came, the ant had plenty, while the helpless grasshopper had nothing.

The teacher would then give her students write how they thought the story should end.

*Some students wrote about THE ANT sharing his food with the GRASSHOPPER so they both survived the winter.

*Other students wrote about how the GRASSHOPPER didn't deserve any food since he played all summer long, and he died during the winter.

But one little boy wrote an ending unlike anything the teacher had ever seen in all her years of giving this writing assignment. He wrote: “The ant gave the grasshopper everything he had, and he died, so the grasshopper could live.” And down at the bottom of his sheet of paper, the little boy drew a picture of a cross.

Today and every day LET US REMEMBER THE GREATEST SACRIFICE OF ALL!