

Remember When the World Stopped Turning

It doesn't seem possible that ten years have passed since radical Islamic terrorists hi-jacked a few planes and employed them as missiles, flying them directly into the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon, killing thousands of innocent people. Thousands of others were spared thanks to the heroic acts of a few aboard the plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

I remember well when the world stopped turning on that September day. It began like every other day that had come before it. I was in my second year of full time work as a Gospel preacher, working for a congregation in the beautiful mountains of east Tennessee. Our oldest child was not yet four, and my wife was ten days away from giving birth to our youngest child. Before heading out to the office I turned on the television to catch a bit of news, and it was then that I learned of the first plane hitting the World Trade Center. Soon thereafter, I saw the second plane strike and knew that America was under attack. I watched as courageous firefighters and rescue personnel entered those buildings just before they collapsed. I remember watching the images of dust-covered faces wandering aimlessly through the city streets soon after the first building fell. It was a scene of utter chaos, panic, shock and fear.

Ten years have passed, and yet, as I sit here at my desk, I remember that day as though it was yesterday. I remember it because it forever changed the lives of countless millions.

As memorable as that September day is, it pales in comparison to the day our Lord was crucified on Calvary's cross. Here we are, some 2,000 years removed from that day, and we still remember that great sacrifice and the blood He shed for the remission of man's sin (**Heb. 9:22**). He left the splendors of heaven and came to Earth to give His life so that we might have life

(Heb. 2:8-9). That day ended in great sorrow; however, on the first day of the week, the tomb where He laid was found empty- HE AROSE (**Mat. 28:1ff**)!

As Americans remember the events of 9/11, they remember the lives that were lost. When Christians assemble around the table on the first day of the week, they too remember the One who died- Christ! But unlike those who died on 9/11, our Savior conquered death in His resurrection and assures mankind the same if they'd but obey Him (**Heb. 5:8-9**). While we anguish His death, we too look forward with anticipation to that day when we will be raised to meet Him in the air, the Day when the world will stop turning (**1 The. 4:16-17**)!

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