

Don't Forget To Remember

Introduction:

- A. Eccl.12:1.
- B. It is comforting to know that I am not the only one who forgets things.
 - 1. Everyone does at one time or another.
- C. John Morley is credited with saying, "The proper memory for a politician is one that knows what to remember and what to forget."
 - 1. The same could be said about Christians.
- D. Today we want to focus our attention on some things we need not forget to remember.

I. God and His Works.

- A. We can forget God.
 - 1. We seem to forget we are His children.
 - 2. We fail to recall what He has promised to do for us.
 - 3. We don't remember His awesome power and His love.
- B. This is why the scriptures constantly remind us to remember God.
 - 1. Moses constantly warned the Jews not to forget God or the work He had done for them – Deut.4:9,23; 6:11,12; 8:11,14,19.
 - 2. God through Jeremiah charged the Jews had forgotten God – Jer.2:32; 3:21; 13:25.
- C. The Result of Forgetting God – Job 8:11-15; Psalms 9:17.
- D. God provides us the means to remember Him.
 - 1. Know God does not forget you – Isaiah 49:13-15.
 - a. Sometimes the hours can slip by without even a momentary thought of God.
 - 1) It's comforting to know that our heavenly Father has not been too busy to think about us.
 - b. We can probably identify with the prayer offered by Sir Jacob Astley before the battle of Edgehill on October 23, 1642: "O Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me."
 - c. We can be grateful that He will not forget us – Heb.13:5.
 - 2. See God's blessings.
 - a. When we face difficulties, we sometimes forget God's past faithfulness.
 - 1) We see only the detours and the dangerous path.
 - b. Sometimes we as Christians need to stop along life's road and look back and see how God directed us by His faithfulness.
 - c. Psalms 20:7– *"7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will make mention of the name of Jehovah our God."*

II. God's Word.

- A. We must not forget to remember God's Word – Proverbs 4:5.
 - 1. The Jews were told to remember God's Word and Law – Joshua 1:13; Proverbs 3:1.
 - 2. Paul preached that we should remember Christ's words – Acts 20:35.
 - 3. And remembering Christ's words includes the words of His apostles – Jude 17.
- B. Why?
 - 1. We will be destroyed if we forget God's Word – Hosea 4:6.
 - 2. We will be blessed if we don't forget God's Word – James 1:24,25.
- C. How?
 - 1. Taking delight in His Word.
 - a. The 119th Psalm is all about remembering God's Word and delighting in it – Psalms 119:16,93,109,141,153,176.

2. Studying His Word.
 - a. Psa.119:11– “11 Thy word have I laid up in my heart, That I might not sin against thee.”
3. Keeping His Word.
 - a. The quickest way to forget God's Word is to not keep or obey it.
 - b. The fastest way to remember it is to always obey it.
 - c. Deut.8:11; Jas.1:25.

III. Others Kindnesses.

- A. We need to remember the kindnesses of others.
 1. The scriptures don't mention kindly those who forget what others have done – Eccl.9:14,15.
 2. Joash forgot the kindness Zechariah had shown him – 2 Chron. 24:22.
 3. Joseph did a great thing in helping Pharaoh's butler.
 - a. He asked simply to be remembered – Gen.40:14,15.
 - b. Gen.40:23– “23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.”
 - c. Two years later he finally remembered Joseph and what he had done for him – Gen.41:9.
- B. The best way we can repay kindnesses others give us is by remembering them with gratitude.
 1. Rom.13:7.
 2. “Blessed are those who give without remembering. And blessed are those who take without forgetting.” – The Rest of the Story p.141.

IV. Others Misfortunes.

- A. Christians are to remember those who are less fortunate.
 1. The Poor – Gal.2:10.
 2. Strangers – Heb.13:2.
 3. Others – Heb.13:16.
- B. When Somebody Forgets.
 1. Job knew the pain of family and friends forgetting him – Job 19:13,14.
 2. We sometimes fail to “do good and to share” (Heb.13:16).
 - a. We need to keep our spiritual balance and not forget to do good to all – Gal.6:10.
 3. The more Christ's love grows in us, the more His love flows from us.
 4. Don't forget others, for God won't forget you – Heb.6:10.

V. God's Forgiveness.

- A. We must not forget God's forgiveness.
 1. In 2 Peter 1:1-8, Peter urges Christians to add certain virtues to their faith.
 - a. 2 Pet.1:9– “9 For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**”
 - b. As God's people, we should always keep in mind that we have been cleansed from our old sins and that we have a new purpose in life.
- B. Jesus gave us a “memorial” so we would remember His sacrifice and forgiveness.
 1. He wants us to remember His death on the cross, the price for the forgiveness of our sins, and anticipate His return.
 2. As He broke the bread centuries ago, He said, “Do this in remembrance of Me” – 1 Cor.11:24.
 - a. “This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” – v.25.

Conclusion:

- A. There are some things we should remember to forget and others we should not forget to remember. Let us have the strength and courage to know which is which and to forget and remember them accordingly.