

“FORGET” AND “REMEMBER”

INTRODUCTION

Today being “Memorial Day” in America, we pay tribute to and **remember** those who have died in battle in wars in which we have been engaged. We also **remember** our loved ones who have gone before in death. The N.T. teaches that there ARE “things” and “events” that we need to FORGET, and other things that we need to REMEMBER. Let’s think about a few of them at this time.

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, let’s consider some things we need to FORGET.

A. We need to **forget** the sins of the past (as much as possible) IF we have been pardoned.

1. King David of old committed a grievous sin in having an illicit affair with Bathsheba, the wife of a military man named Uriah.
 - a. When he learned she was with child, David gave orders for Uriah to take a break from the war and come home to his wife, so he could say that the child was fathered BY Uriah instead of by him, Uriah refused to return home.
 - b. David then had Uriah sent to hottest part of the battlefield so he would be killed, and then he would feel justified in marrying Bathsheba.
 - c. BUT, David could not forget what he had done, and was troubled at heart. Psa. 32:3-4
 - d. Nathan the prophet reminded him of his sin, through the parable of the ewe lamb.
 - e. David acknowledged his sin and was forgiven so he could put it behind him.
 - 1) He remembered his past until he confessed it and obtained pardon. Psa. 32:1-2
 - 2) He admitted his guilt and was pardoned. Psa. 32:3-5
2. David remembered the sins of his youth, but wanted God to forgive them. Psa. 25:7

B. Then, we need to **forget** any accomplishments of the past that might keep us away from doing other important things. Acts 22:1-16; 26:4-11; Phil. 2:13-14

C. Finally, we need to **forget** any sins committed against US, so that God will forget the sins we commit. Matt. 18:22-35 (Discuss fully).

1. If we want forgiveness, we must BE forgiving.
2. What about the man who abstains from intimacy with his wife so she will become so lonesome that she has an affair with another man, and then her husband divorces her, claiming SHE was guilty of fornication, though **he caused it**.
 - a. What about a certain preacher of the gospel who himself committed fornication, and confessed it, but the wife was so troubled that **she** finally committed fornication, and THEN the husband refused to forgive her, and divorced her—claiming scriptural grounds.
 - b. A man may “cause” his wife to commit fornication, making them both guilty of sin, and neither would be justified in marrying another. Matt. 5:32

II. In the 2nd place, let’s consider a few things we need to REMEMBER.

A. 1st, we must ALWAYS remember GOD, the Creator. Eccl. 12:1

1. If we are mindful of God as we should be taught thoroughly when children, so we will strive to live right, and correct our lives when we fall.
2. We need to remember that God is watching us whether we do right or wrong.

B. 2nd, we need ALWAYS to remember the WORD of God. Acts 20:28-35

1. Peter wrote 2 Pet. To remind brethren to “remember” God’s “word” **and** the message of the apostles. 2 Pet. 3:1-2
 - a. This remembrance would remind them that God knew skeptics would come. vs. 3-4
 - 1) Some are themselves “ignorant” of God’s word. vs. 5-7
 - 2) Some are ignorant of God’s way of keeping time. vs. 8
 - a) God WILL keep His promises. v. 9-13
 - b) Knowing these things, they were to keep faithful. v. 14
 - b. They needed to know that even the apostle PAUL spoke of these things, vs. 15-16
2. Then as a result, they could avoid error, and follow the word to grow in grace and knowledge. vs. 17-18

C, 3rd, we need to always look to Jesus, and remember His death each week in the Lord’s Supper. 1 Cor. 11:24-25

CONCLUSION

- I. When we depart from righteousness, we need to “remember” what is involved, and repent and turn back to the Lord.
 - A. After Peter denied the Lord 3 times, the cock crew and he made eye contact with Jesus, and remembered what He said, and went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60-62
 - B. Fallen brethren in Ephesus were called upon to “remember” and then “repent” and do the first works. Rev. 3:3
 1. No one needs to think that GOD is going to forget about the sins, just because they do.
 2. God calls upon the sinners to remember their sins, then repent and live like they are supposed to live.
- II. If you are in need of repentance to become a Christian, or to return after having departed from the Lord, we invite you to make it known, as we stand together and sing.

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