

“REMEMBER THEREFORE FROM WHENCE THOU ART FALLEN”

INTRODUCTION

God has always demanded faithfulness and devotion to Him from His people. The Israelites fell away in the wilderness, and could not enter the land of Canaan. Moses disobeyed God in striking the rock for water when God told him to speak to it. Other examples could be given. When Jesus sent a letter through John to the church in Ephesus, He admonished them for their departure from truth, by saying, *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”* (Rev. 2:5). Without attempting to analyze this verse in its context, we simply want to borrow the expression, *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,”* and apply IT in a lesson at this time, making application to members of the body of Christ, by reminding us of (1) Our FORMER STATE; (2) Our PRESENT STATE; and (3) Our FUTURE STATE.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we need to remember our FORMER STATE.

- A. The text reminds that those who have fallen were to remember their former state, from which they had fallen.
1. This shows the possibility of apostasy, or else this whole congregation need not repent.
 2. It also shows the consequences of apostasy unless repentance takes place.
- B. What do the saved need to remember?
1. Before being saved, we were LOST, without God and without hope of living beyond the grave. Eph. 2:11-13
 2. Before being saved, we were held somewhat in captivity by Satan, who wants us to be lost in hell with him forever and ever.
 3. Before being saved, we were actually enemies of God, either actively or passively, without realizing how dangerous it is to live without God.
 - a. Some young folks fail to remember God in youth, and grow older and more and more accustomed to doing the sinful things of the world without fear.
 - b. All young folks would do well to remember God in their youth. Eccl. 12:1, 12-13

II. 2nd, we need to remember always our PRESENT STATE.

- A. We need to remember that we **have been saved**, with our sins washed away in the blood of God’s Son who died on the cross to save us. Rev. 1:4
- B. We need to remember that we have been **separated from sinful lusts of the flesh** that can destroy us if we do not remain separated. 1 Pet. 4:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17
- C. We need to remember that we now have **continual access to the blood** of Jesus to cleanse us when we DO err from God. 1 John 1:7-9
- D. We need to remember that we DO have **the will of God for our lives** as recorded in the scripture, to help us avoid sin. Acts 20:3 2; Psa. 1:1-2; 119:9; 1 Cor. 10:13
- E. We need to remember that we have **warnings to always be faithful**. Heb. 3:12; 1 Cor. 15:58

- F. We need to remember that we have **the greatest promise in the world**, that of life beyond the grave, which the world does not have. Tit. 1:2
1. We know that we are destined to physical death. Eccl. 2:14; Heb. 9:27
 2. We also know that if we DO fall away into sin, that there is hope renewed if we repent and turn back to God. Acts 8:22
- G. We need to remember that we have **the privilege of knowing God and walking with Him** here in righteousness, with the prospect of walking with Him in heaven forever, and avoiding the consequences of dying without Him, and being in torment forever and ever.
- H. We need to remember that we having made a **covenant with God**, and should not make any kind of covenant with the world, pleasure, or family that would destroy this covenant. Matt. 10:37
1. Some get so involved in their work that they no longer have time for God.
 2. Some get so involved in pleasure that they lose their souls. Luke 8:14
 3. Some make covenants with others in marriage that take them away from God.
 - a. Some marry again after an unscriptural marriage (that of putting away a mate for reasons other than fornication, or marrying someone who has done the same.)
 - b. Some marry unbelievers or mates who are dedicated to false religions, and either leave the church completely, or join their mate in a false religion, and allow themselves to live without God, and see their children brought up in religious error. (Give an example of this.)

III. 3Rd, we need to remember OUR FUTURE STATE.

- A. We cannot remember it from the past, but to project ourselves into the future and visualize our state at that time, in view of the PAST and PRESENT states of our lives.
1. Death awaits us all, whether young or old, rich or poor, that life will someday end.
 2. The way we are living in the present may well be the way it will be in the future.
 3. If we are not right with God now, we need to make changes immediately before it is too late to do so.
- B. We should anticipate the return of the Lord, to meet Him in the air. 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Tit. 2:13

CONCLUSION

- I. In conclusion, there are things we need to remember.
- A. As Christians, we need to remember our former state of being lost in sin, our present state of being saved, and our future state of living in glory.
 - B. As a member of the body of Christ who has fallen away, and separated yourself from God, you need to repent and pray that God will forgive you and give you the hope that you once had.
 - C. As a non-Christian, we beg of you to look at yourself now, and project those thoughts to the future, and come to God by confessing faith in His Son, repenting, and being baptized into Him for the forgiveness of your sins, that you too can have the hope of heaven.
- II. If you are subject to the Lord's invitation, won't you respond now while we stand and sing?

Don Tarbet