

Remember and Be Thankful – Notes

One of the great key notes of the Old Testaments is found in our text, “...*You shall REMEMBER...*”. Here, God also gives us 3 key notes for His leading.

- 1) To humble you – So everything God has done was to put them down to the dirt (humus) from which we get our word humble.
- 2) Testing you – To show the genuineness or lack thereof.
- 3) To know what was in your heart – Not that God had to know. So this testing was to prove to the Children of Israel what was in their hearts.

I want to call your particular attention to 3 words right at the beginning of verse two. “*YOU SHALL REMEMBER*”. What a season of the year to remember. Our text calls us to exercise the ministry of *memory*. Memory is such a peculiar thing. It’s the only way the past can live again in life as we have it right now. Most prominently, we have tragedy associated with our memory. When looking back over our past, most of us tend to focus on some dirty spot on the page of memory. Part of our depravity is that we tend to major on the dirt in our past. Our memories are bondslaves to disappointment. Not to say that those things are unimportant, but they should be settled so that they don’t command your attention. The good thing about memory is that it can be trained. That’s one of the reasons we’re commanded here to “Remember”. We can look back over certain things that cause our memory to be turned toward God and train our memory to go in that direction. Now in this chapter, God is inviting us to focus our memories on at least 4 different things. They all concern a focus or fix on God.

POINT #1 – He tells them to “Remember God’s Deliverance”. The day of your salvation is the greatest day of deliverance. Stop, just now, and remember what it was like during the “B.C.” (Before Christ) time in your life. You were in darkness, under your Pharaoh, in the bondage of Satan, sin, and the world. You had no choice to do anything else, until God broke in with His light to offer you His life. In the New Testament, anytime you see the word “*Saved*”, or any other derivative of that word, you can rightly replace it with the word Delivered. A Christian is one who has been “**DELIVERED**”. In the New Testament, when one is saved, they are *delivered* out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love (Col 1:13). **POINT #2 – In our text, we’re not only to REMEMBER God’s DELIVERANCE, but also God’s GUIDANCE.** If you’re taking notes, you may want to write in the margin of your bible, the literal meaning of that word *remember*, is to “*literally mark*.” I picture it as your memory of your past being like a roadmap in your mind. When you become conscious of that map, you’re to put an asterisk beside certain things in your past just to be reminded that this is a token of God’s guidance or deliverance. How many times has God squeezed you, by means of some cross that nobody wanted to be nailed to at the moment? **POINT #3 – WE ARE TO REMEMBER GODS PROVIDENCE.** Verse 18 gives us another of 3 radically different aspects of God’s Providence. One is negative. One is positive, and one is personal. **A. HE HAS PROVIDED PROSPERITY (Verses 7-9).** Our nation is logging a history of forgetting God because of our prosperity, and we don’t care, and God owes us a blow! **B. GOD HAS PROVIDED PERSONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY.** It’s amazing how we, in this country, have developed a “myth of independence”. **The truth is, we’re not even independent of nature!** Just let a natural tragedy strike us and everybody rallies to the point of need, but

we can't control that occurrence. God has His own subtle back-door ways of **enforcing** our dependence. **C. GOD HAS PROVIDED US WITH ADVERSITY.** Every one of us has a **benefactor** far more capable, far bigger, and wealthier than we could ever dream about being. All we see are the **shadows** of His existence. Tragedy is this Benefactor is remains **unknown** to most people. Just as with the Israelites, this **provokes** God to wrath. God's ability to suffer with us, or to be patient with us for a long time is what **accounts** for our salvation. Please notice the two capital verbs in the title of our message.

"Remember" is the first one. And "Be Thankful" is the **verbal action** that comes out of the **ministry** of memory. It isn't **easy** to Remember. That's one of the reasons we have preaching and teaching in Christianity. Christian memories cannot be **trusted**, and we must be reminded continually (2 Peter 2:3; 2 Timothy 2:8). **Have you ever considered the meaning of the name of the book where our text is found?** It comes from the **Greek** translation of the Old Testament, called the "Septuagint". *Deutero – Nomos is the word.* "Deutero" means "second or **repeat**". "Nomos" means "**law**". One statement of the **law** wasn't enough. One statement of Israel's **history** with God wasn't enough. They needed consistent and constant **reminders**. Just think of what an incredible **gift** of grace your personal memory is. Memory provides the chance for **endless** mental reruns. Memory is a strange **blight** on the one hand, and it is a strange **blessing** on the other hand. **The grace of God offers among it's many gifts the grace of gratitude to replace our ingratitude. You see, ingratitude is a sin (1 Thessalonians 5:18).** Somebody wisely said, "*One act of thanksgiving, when things go **wrong**, is worth a thousand acts of thanksgiving when things go **right**.*"

The only proper response to grace is gratitude. The one real resource for growth in your life today may be gratitude.

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

1. Let me remind you that today, for you, will be a memory tomorrow. What kind of memory will it be?
2. Let me also remind you also that "you" will be a memory to somebody else tomorrow. What kind of memory will you be tomorrow or after you're gone?
3. Memory is a servant to the will. The will can be trained to use the memory in certain things in certain directions. That's why God commands us to remember.
4. I want to encourage you to mark some things in your past, such as your salvation – your *Deliverance*, God's *Guidance* of your life, God's incredible *Providence*. Then look back on God's *Patience* which is the very reason for your spiritual walk altogether.
5. One reason for memory is that it prods thankfulness or thanksgiving.
6. If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, *Remember* that you will spend eternity somewhere. *Be Thankful* that God has been patient with you to this point and has provided you another opportunity. *Surrender to Jesus* today! Come to Him with your hands up and He'll gladly, joyfully receive you!