

DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER

EC 12:1

INTRODUCTION

- A. It is comforting to know that I am not the only one who forgets things.
 - 1. Everyone does at one time or another.
 - 2. Things people most often forget: Name (83%); Where something is (60%); Telephone numbers (57%); Words (53%); What was said (49%); Faces (42%); Whether just done somethings (38%).
- B. John Morley is credited with saying, "The proper memory for a politician is one that knows what to remember and what to forget." The same could be said about Christians.
- C. Today we want to focus our attention on some things we need not forget to remember.

DISCUSSION

- I. DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER 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 – DT 4:9,23; 6:11,12; 8:11,14,19.
 - 2. God through Jeremiah charged the Jews had forgotten God – JE 2:32; 3:21; 13:25.
 - C. The Result of Forgetting God – Job 8:11-15; PS 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 – HE 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. PS 20:7
- II. DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER GOD'S WORD
 - A. We must not forget to remember God's Word – PR 4:5.
 - 1. The Jews were told to remember God's Word and Law – Joshus 1:13; PR 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 – JA 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 – PS 119:16,93,109,141,153,176.
 - 2. Studying His Word.
 - a. PS 119:11.
 - 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. DT 8:11; JA 1:25.
- III. DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER OTHER'S KINDNESS
 - A. We need to remember the kindnesses of others.
 - 1. The scriptures don't mention kindly those who forget what others have done – EC 9:14,15.
 - 2. Joash forgot the kindness Zechariah had shown him – 2 CH 24:22.
 - 3. Joseph did a great thing in helping Pharaoh's butler.
 - a. He asked simply to be remembered – GE 40:14,15.
 - b. GE .40:23.
 - c. Two years later he finally remembered Joseph and what he had done for him – GE 41:9.
 - B. The best way we can repay kindnesses others give us is by remembering them with gratitude.
 - 1. RO 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. DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER OTHER'S MISFORTUNES
 - A. Christians are to remember those who are less fortunate.
 - 1. The Poor – GA 2:10.
 - 2. Strangers – HE 13:2.
 - 3. Others – HE 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"* (HE 13:16).
 - a. We need to keep our spiritual balance and not forget to do good to all – GA 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 – HE 6:10.
- V. DO NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER 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 PE 1:9
 - 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, 1 CO 12:24; cup, v. 25.

Conclusion:

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