

A POOR MEMORY

2 Peter 1:9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.



MEMORY – on Earth and in Hell

‘And hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins’:

If suddenly your memory left you tomorrow morning, you would not know anyone in your household, any of your friends, or any of the saints, and earth would be like Hell. You make it so with God by forgetting.

They remembered not the multitude of Thy mercies.

Psalms 106:7: Our fathers understood not Thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of Thy mercies; but provoked Him at the sea, even at the Red Sea.

They soon forgot His works.

Psalms 106:13: They soon forgot His works; they waited not for His counsel:

They forgot God their Saviour.

Psalms 106:21: They forgot God their Saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

Luke 16:25: But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Son, remember . . .

Psalms 106:45: And He remembered for them His Covenant, and repented according to the multitude of His mercies.

REMEMBER!

Few things are brought out more strikingly in the Bible than the great contrast between:

GOD'S EVER-ABIDING FAITHFULNESS AND MAN'S FORGETFULNESS AND UNFAITHFULNESS.

Three times in **Psalms 106** God tells us how Israel, His own chosen people, forgot Him.

- a. they forgot His mercies
- b. they forgot His works
- c. they forgot God.

The very order in which these expressions come are significant and full of warning. One neglect leads to another, and they get worse as time goes on. We are content to receive His mercies as a matter of course, without even reflecting on the great Giver of all good and perfect gifts. Great is His faithfulness, and with shame we say, "Great is our forgetfulness and unfaithfulness".

One neglect leads to another, and they get worse as time goes on.

Let us not forget that the sin of forgetting is indeed a great calamity to our own selves. We will suffer for it, and it seems we never appreciate the blessings of the Lord until they are taken away from us. Our homes, our jobs, our health, our children, our right mind, our friends, our salvation — all are mercies of God and would not continue without the goodness of God.

To forget His mercies is but a small step then to forget His works.

I. We once thanked God for the experience of Salvation and the joys at the beginning of our walk with God. We were happy that Christ died for our sins, and dug us out of the horrible pit. What makes us forget? The answer is in:

2 Peter 1:9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

We forget the great price of salvation!

Was it because they were so busy with their daily routines of business that every possible moment of spare time was taken, so they did not have **time** to remember His great mercies? This is no excuse, for God has given us a day to set apart to worship Him. The cause of this forgetfulness is not by reason of a faulty memory. It is caused by not going on with God. God will not

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Did you ever think of what it cost all of us for our forgetfulness, even in this life? We have lost time and money, friends and opportunities, by forgetting. Lives have been lost by forgetting; many have gone into despair by someone's forgetfulness. Many are caused pain by the forgetfulness of a friend or loved one. Friendships have been broken by forgetting a promise made and never fulfilled. We announce plans and never carry them out.

2. **Israel not only forgot God's mercies, but they forgot His works.**

Isaiah 17:10: Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the Rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

We used to remember Him and He seemed so near to us then. We saw Him working purity and holiness in our lives, and we were glad.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:13: For it is God Who worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

Philippians 1:6: Being confident of this very thing, that He Who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

But today, you have forgotten God, and His claims on your soul have long since been lost. You have lost Him in not going on with Him.



John 10:27: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:

You lost Him in pleasure, you lost Him for worldly friends, you lost Him at home amidst watching television, you lost Him at the resort in the latest fashions . . . You forgot Him with the new home and the new car.

Then, you think that you honor Him by coming to Church; and the preacher — out to have a special sermon to tickle the ears and make obeisance at the door — tells folks how wonderful they are. Yet they know right down in their hearts that they are a thousand miles from God.



Men today remember baseball game scores, highway numbers for vacation travel, and certain programs on the radio and TV.

God said:

Exodus 20:8: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Yet, we have desecrated it just as the world has. America is going today just as backsliding Israel went. God will not shut His eyes to us. Be not deceived.



But men forget the strokes upon strokes that fell upon Jesus, dying on the cross to save us from a devil's Hell. We will not be held guiltless for it. God says:

Isaiah 17:10-11:

¹⁰ Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the Rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

¹¹ In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow.

We belong to the family of forgetters. We forget the church services, and the vows we have made to God.

Hebrews 10:25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

3. THEY FORGOT GOD

The third step given to us in this Psalm seems only a natural consequence of the other two. Having forgotten the multitude of His mercies, and then His works, how can we be surprised when we read "***They forgot God.***"

Deuteronomy 8:11-18:

11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping His Commandments, and His Judgments, and His Statutes, which I command thee this day:

12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;



14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the Rock of flint;

16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

17 And thou say in thine heart, My Power and the might of Mine Hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is He Who giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His Covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

The great sin of forgetting is seen in:

Psalms 9:17: The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God.

This brings me to that shocking scene of memory in Hell. You may forget God here, but you won't forget long in Hell.

“Son, REMEMBER . . .

Everyone of you here tonight are standing on the shores of time, and are soon going to bid farewell to this old world. You cannot stay here forever, but must leave. Time

is fast running out. **Wake up, you who have forgotten God for a few cheap pleasures of this world to satisfy the lusts of your backslidden heart!**

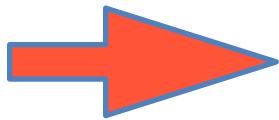


Sinners, another year is bringing you closer to your doom without Christ and without God. You have lived another year, another day, and have more sins to give account of, and one less day in which to do it. God is speaking a message of love to your heart tonight in these warnings. He is not willing that you should perish, but come to repentance.

Ecclesiastes 3:15: That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

God is requiring the past in the sense that He is telling you to review it, in order to get it covered with the Blood of Jesus.

This Scripture speaks of memory in another world. The rich man died, and in Hell he is tormented with memory of his past life on earth.



You will remember how you spurned the love of God; how you came to this church and made fun of the preaching of the Word; how you tried to disturb the services, and hindered other souls from getting right with God. You will have memory there, and it will mock and torment you forever.

The MEMORY of this man has been quickened and enlivened by the light of eternity.

Have any of you nearly drowned or were on your deathbed, and your life came up like a flash? This is the way it will be in Hell. You will see yourself and all your life, over and over again. You will hate yourself for the way you lived on earth, but it will be too late to do anything about it.



What a vision this man in Hell had of the past! He was a healthy man, had everything his heart desired, sought, and found pleasure, but he forgot God in it all.

You are, tonight, seeking for things of the world at the expense of your poor soul. You are selling yourselves for naught, selling out cheap. Just as this rich man did,

so are some of you here tonight. He was clothed in fine linen, in purple, and fared sumptuously every day. Memory now tells him he had gained the world but lost his own soul. He is now the eternal loser. I would rather lose for a little while in this world than lose out forever and ever and ever . . . wouldn't you?

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This Scripture tells us what a man carries into the other world. He carries memory, conscience, and reason. We are not annihilated, as some of the devil's preachers would like to soothe consciences with such a lie. The immortal soul must live on and on forever, though we think we would bring it to an end by being cremated at death. You cannot cremate a man's spirit. What fools we mortals be!

GOD, FOR HIS OWN REASONS, HAS RETAINED THE NERVES OF THE HUMAN SOUL. ***"I am tormented in this flame."* (Luke 16:24b)**

Yes, flaming memories, conscience, and reason — besides the Lake of Fire — could have been covered by the Precious Blood of Jesus which cleanses us from all sin.



You could be saved tonight. God wills it so. God loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins to make it so. You can be saved by repenting of your evil life and sins, and by trusting in Jesus and in the Cross of Calvary tonight.

This man in Hell remembers how he treated the poor while down here on earth. Now he wants just a drop of cool water on his tongue from that same poor man. The poor man thirsted and hungered, but is now banqueting and feasting in that Heavenly Place of Paradise. The rich man sees what is going on there, but there is a great gulf fixed, and no one can pass over to the other side.

Luke 16:23-26:

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

He remembers the damning influence of his life on his brothers. He wants now to make an evangelist out of the man to whom he would not give a crumb, and send him to his father's house to warn them lest they, too, might come into that place of torment. He knew he was responsible for their lost condition. They would accuse him thru all eternity for their eternal ruin. I wonder how many of you will be accused in that awful day for damning some poor lost soul by your crooked life, your hypocrisy, your disturbances in the church?

SON, REMEMBER, REMEMBER, REMEMBER, your backsliding, your coldness, your lukewarmness; remember from whence you are fallen and repent, or I will come upon thee quickly and remove the candlestick out of its place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:5: Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

A rooster helped Peter remember the sign of his backsliding, and he went out and wept bitterly. God is letting me be His rooster to crow you back to God, and crow you out of going to Hell. But remember, this is the only life in which you can get right, for when you leave this world, it is either Heaven or Hell.



Backslidden King David cries:

Psalms 51:4: Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.

In closing, I would like to tell you the **Good News** of the last of my Scriptures of God's unforgetfulness and faithfulness:

Psalms 106:45: And He remembered for them His Covenant, and repented according to the multitude of His mercies.

Thank God — though we have done God dirty — that He does not leave us in the dark, nor reward us by casting us off forever for our treatment of Him.

After they forgot His mercy, and works, and Himself, He remembered His covenant. **His Covenant of Salvation is through Christ Jesus, the Living Son of God.**

Today is the day of Salvation — so harden not your hearts.

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