

Keeping A Good Memory

Introduction:

1. Tomorrow is Memorial Day. This is the day that we have set aside to remember those who have died and given their lives while fighting for our country.
2. It began in Waterloo, New York, in 1866. The people set aside May 5 to remember the soldiers killed in the Civil War. Of course, now it has been expanded to include all the wars we have fought.
3. I think this is so important, because there are some things we just need to take time to remember. Sometimes people's memories are too short.
4. People tend to remember what is important to them. People may forget their dentist appointments, but they don't forget to take their vacations or to pick up their bonus checks.
5. Did you know that God's Word teaches that there are some spiritual truths that we should keep in our memory at all times?
6. If we are to walk with God as we were created in Christ to do, there are some key Bible truths that we must keep in our memory. On this Memorial Day, I thought it would be a great time to examine what God says to remember. How do we keep a good memory?

First, we must remember what Jesus Christ has accomplished. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1. Paul had preached the gospel to these Corinthians. In verse 2 he exhorts them to keep it in memory. What was this good news? Read verses 3-4.
2. This is the best news the world has ever been given. Death was defeated and eternal life was made possible. We should never forget the terrible price Christ had to pay for our sin. Notice, He died for **our** sins. It was our sins that nailed Him to that cross.
3. When we consider all the wicked, vile, loathsome acts of sin, no sin can compare with the full cup of the universe's sin that was laid upon Christ on that cross.
4. A person may ask, "Who is Jesus Christ and why did He have to die?" God the Father answers, "This is my only beloved Son, dying not only for your sins, but for the sins of the whole world."
5. To us, sin may be a light, small thing. But to God, it is a great and awful thing. There is only one thing bigger or more massive than sin, and that is the love of God! Romans 5:20
6. How often do you take time to remember what Christ has accomplished for you? You should keep it in your memory, and think of it often.

Second, we must remember where Christ saved us from. Ephesians 2:11-13

1. God says that you should remember what you were before Christ saved you. There is one word that aptly describes our condition before Christ saved us: condemned!

2. The Bible teaches that we are all sinners, and that we inherited a sin nature from the first man, Adam (Ephesians 2:1-3). The result of this is condemnation. Romans 5:16, 18
3. We were condemned because we were in bondage to:
 - The world (vs. 2) – The world will one day be condemned. 1 John 2:17
 - The devil (vs. 2) – He will one day be condemned to the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10
 - Our flesh (vs. 3) – It is also condemned. Romans 8:3
4. We were heading down the road of eternal condemnation at 100 mph. But praise God, then Jesus came! Romans 7:24-25a; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Ephesians 2:13; John 5:24
5. Don't ever forget where Jesus saved you from. Don't ever take your salvation for granted. God says, "Remember what you were in time past, and then remember what you are now in Christ Jesus."
6. You may be thinking, "I don't know what you're talking about. I don't remember a day that I got saved and was delivered from condemnation." Then today needs to be the day of your salvation. You need to trust Christ today. John 3:18

Third, we must remember our first love for Christ. Revelation 2:4-5

1. These people in this passage had been saved for a while, but had a serious problem. They had left their first love.
 - You say, "What does that mean?"
2. These believers had grown cold, complacent, and calloused. They had lost that excitement and fervency that they once had for the things of God.
3. It can happen in such a subtle and gradual way. Maybe there are some areas in which you have lost your first love. What is the answer? How do you get back that fire and excitement? vs. 5
 - Remember – Think back and remember the joy you had serving the Lord and growing in His Word. There was always a new and exciting truth you learned or experienced.
 - Repent – Realize that your coldness and indifference is sin. God is not pleased. Be honest with God about it and change your attitude about it with God in prayer.
 - Respond – "*Do the first works.*" In other words, do something about it. Pray and ask God to give you back that fire, that hunger for His Word, a burden for lost souls, a willingness to serve, an eagerness to give and be used of God. Begin to do the things you once did. Get back to the basics.
4. You may be thinking, "I don't know what you are talking about. I have **never** had any desire for His Word, or any desire to talk to others about Jesus, or any desire to serve God." If this is the case, then the key question is, "Are you saved?"
5. You need to get your eternal destiny settled today. You need to come to Christ today.

In Conclusion:

1. On this Memorial Day weekend, we need to remember the soldiers who gave their lives for our freedom in this country. But God also says, “Remember some things.”
 - Remember what Christ has accomplished for you.
 - Remember where Christ saved you from.
 - Remember the love for God and the fire for Christ you once had.
2. How is your memory? Are you keeping a good memory, or have you let some things slide that you should be remembering?
3. Maybe you are here and cannot remember a day when you got your salvation settled, and you are not sure that heaven is your eternal home. Today would be a great day to get that issue settled once and for all.