

Remembering: An Essential Part of the Christian Life Deuteronomy 7-8

Introduction:

1. The ability to remember is a wonderful gift of God.
 - Webster's defines "remember" as "to bring to mind or think of again."
 - Imagine if you couldn't remember any previous thought. You wouldn't know how to drive home or even know your own name.
 - Granted, some memories are painful, but none of us would want to be without the power to remember.
2. Did you know that the principle of remembering is found all throughout the Bible?
 - Jesus said, "*Remember Lot's wife.*" **Luke 17:32**
 - The angels said to those at Jesus' tomb, "*He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was in Galilee.*" **Luke 24:6**
 - The Lord's Supper - "*This do in remembrance of me.*"
 - The apostle Paul talked often about "putting people in remembrance" of certain truths.
3. This morning (on Memorial Day weekend) I want us to consider the high cost of failing to remember some things.
 - When a nation fails to remember the great sacrifice that people in the past have made for their liberty, it can only spell trouble.
 - We will see today that the same is true in the Christian life.
4. Here in our text, Israel is about to enter into Canaanland, and God is issuing some strong warnings and admonitions. Notice this principle of remembering being reiterated by God. 7:18, 8:2, 11, 14, 18, 9:7
5. Did you know that remembering is an essential part of the Christian life? There are four vital principles we can learn from this text about remembering.

We must remember the victories that God has won. 7:17-19

1. God was about to send His people into a land filled with wicked and violent nations that were much greater and mightier than Israel. 7:1
2. These nations were very adept at warfare, and God knew that the natural reaction of Israel would be fear.
3. What was God's antidote for their fear? 7:17-19
 - God said, "When you are tempted to fear, remember what I did to Pharaoh and all of Egypt when I miraculously delivered you from your bondage."
4. Has God won victories for you in the past? The greatest victory is salvation from the bondage of our sin. Has He accomplished things in your life since then? Have you had circumstances that were tough, but you found that God was true to His Word?
5. We need desperately to remember the victories that God has won in the past, lest fear grip us in the present, and paralyze us in our Christian walk.

2 Timothy 1:7

We must remember lessons learned from past trials. 8:1-13, 15-16

1. Israel was on the threshold of entering into Canaan land, and an unprecedented time of blessing, but their past was not always one big party. They hadn't come down "easy street" to get where they were. They had been through great trials. 8:1-3
2. It's interesting that it was **God** that led them into the wilderness (8:15) and it was **God** who allowed them to hunger (8:3). Why would God do this to His children?
3. What is the common phrase in 8:2, 3, and 16? "Humble thee."
4. Israel had a problem with stubborn self-will. God allowed trials in their lives to humble them and to teach them to rely on Him and His Word alone. 8:3
5. As we remember past trials and the lessons God taught us through those trials, it keeps us humble and in total reliance on His Word.
6. When we fail to remember the lessons that God taught us in the past, God has to send trials to re-teach us those crucial lessons. I would rather learn the lesson, and grow and change so that God doesn't have to keep re-teaching the same lessons. 8:5-6

We must remember Who is the source of all blessings. 8:7-20

1. Israel was about to enter the land that God was giving to them and God knew that it was a good land. 8:7-9
2. What was Israel to do when they were blessed by God? Bless the Lord. 8:10
3. Christian, we live thousands of years later in a totally different time period, but did you know that nothing has changed when it comes to this matter of thanksgiving?
 - We are to remember where our blessings come from (**1 Timothy 6:17**), and give thanks to God for everything. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**;
Ephesians 5:20
4. God knew what Israel's tendency would be - to forget where it came from (8:11-14) and become full of pride (8:17).
5. What was the answer to this fleshly tendency? God said, "**Remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth.**" 8:18-20
6. Do you know what Satan has used to destroy many godly Christians? Success and prosperity. If we do not remember where our blessings come from, we can get caught in a web of idolatry. 8:19
 - We begin worshipping the works of men's hands (houses, cars, toys, boats, etc.).
 - How do we worship them? We begin to live for them, and our lives revolve around the acquisition and use of them.
7. But as we remember that God is the source of every blessing, it will lead us to worship Him and give Him first-place in our hearts and lives.

In Conclusion:

1. Just as God knew that Israel would be tempted to forget, the same is true of us today.

2. Even something as basic as the resurrection of Christ, Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:8**, "*Remember that Jesus Christ...*"
3. How quickly we can put things out of our mind and forget, but God says that there is a blessedness in remembering.
 - Remember the victories God has won in your life.
 - Remember the trials and the lessons learned.
 - Remember where your blessings came from.
4. Tomorrow, may we take time to remember past sacrifices for this country, but may we daily take time to remember what Jesus Christ has done in our lives.