

THINGS TO REMEMBER #2
2Pet.1:12-15
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ability and/or the power to remember is a great blessing.
 - a. What a tremendous loss, even a great burden, it would be if you could not remember:
 - (1) Your name; who you are; nothing about yourself.
 - (2) Your past life – if all of the past were suddenly a blank to you!
 - (3) Your parents or children or other deceased loved ones.
 - (4) Whether or not you are single, married, divorced, a widow, or a widower.
 - (5) How to return to your home from here, or even if you have a home to go to.
 - (6) When and if you found yourself in a large city where no one knows you and couldn't remember where you were or how you arrived there, and you couldn't remember the name of a single person to call to identify you.
 - b. There is no end to the frustrating situations that might arise due to the inability to remember, nor to the almost unbearable frustrations one would suffer due to such.
 - c. Surely this helps paint for us the mental picture of what a great blessing it is to have the ability to remember, even the so-called small, unimportant things in life we often take for granted.
2. With this in mind, we raise a question about the great blessing of being able to remember the things of a spiritual nature that pertain to both life here and here-after.
3. In spite of the great blessing it is that we have the ability to remember these things of an all important spiritual nature, how sad it is that we so often fail to, or neglect, or just plain refuse to use that ability.
4. God in the Bible, both O.T. and N.T., has called upon, and continues to call upon, his people to remember, keep before our minds, at all times, spiritual things that pertain to our life and serve here and to life here-after, Exo.13:3; Deut.5:15; Jno.16:4; 1Tim.4:6; 2Tim.2:14; 2Pet.1:12-15; 3:1; Jude 5.
5. The burden of this lesson is to remind us, each of us, of some of these things we should, in fact, must, remember if we are to serve God

faithfully while here on earth and have any hope of gaining heaven after the resurrection and final judgment!

II. DISCUSSION

A. IN ECCL.12:1 WE ARE ADMONISHED TO REMEMBER

1. “Thy Creator”
 - a. Why is that so necessary? No doubt for many reasons.
 - (1) One of which is that even God’s own people have a tendency to forget Him according to Jer.2:32; 3:21; 13:25; 18:15; 23:26,27;50:6.
 - (2) Another, because the Creator is God, the One to whom we owe our very being and continued existence; the One in whom we live, move, and have our very being, Ac.17:28.
 - b. Furthermore, to remember God is to believe in him, trust in him, seek him, obey him.
 - c. Cf. Rom.1:18-32 and the Gentiles who did not like to retain God in their knowledge.
 - d. Then consider the Gentiles of Thessalonica who turned to God from idols, 1Th.1:9,10 (vv.2-8).
2. “Thy Creator in the days of thy youth”
 - a. Do it early in life before the ravages of time and age work their havoc in your life, even ruin, both physically and spiritually, making it much more difficult to overcome the damaging effects of sin.
 - b. The longer you wait to turn to and give you life to God the more difficult it becomes; the easier it is to keep putting it off; the greater the danger of suffering the eternal consequences of sin.
3. The sooner we do it the less danger there is of being un-prepared to face the judgment mentioned at the close of the chapter, Vv.12,13.
4. Remember also: The young die, too! Therefore, you may not live to a ripe old age with plenty of time left to prepare to meet God in judgment!
5. If you die unprepared, you will face the judgment unprepared. There will be no 2nd chance at the 2nd Coming of Christ and the final judgment

B. WE ALSO NEED TO REMEMBER THE WORD JESUS SAID TO HIS CHOSEN APOSTLES IN JNO.15:20,21.

1. “Remember the word that I said unto you:

- a. “The servant is not greater than his lord.
 - b. “If they have persecuted me (the lord), they will persecute you (the servant);
 - c. “if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
 - d. “But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.”
2. While these words were said to and applied primarily to the apostles as Jesus’ Ambassadors here on earth, his official spiritual spokesmen to bind and to loose on earth the word Jesus received from the Father and gave to them, the principle of the servant not being greater than his lord is applicable to us, since we are his servants and he our master and Lord.
- a. See Mt.5:10-12; 2Tim.3:12; Rom.8:17; 1Pet.4:12-19.

C. ANOTHER THING TO REMEMBER IS THE WORDS OF THE LORD THAT IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE, Ac.20:32-35.

- 1. What a blessing it is to have these important words of the Lord Jesus preserved for us which the apostle admonished us to remember.
 - a. They are truly Divine in nature.
 - b. They give the heavenly aspect to human life.
 - c. They are the exact and perfect contravention of that which is low, worldly, selfish and evil.
 - d. They put into language or words the very spirit of Jesus Christ, or the life of the Savior in a sentence.
- 2. It is more blessed to give than to receive, for to live to receive is to live on quite a low level.
 - a. Anyone and anything can do that; and the further we go down in the scale of living to receive, the more we find reciprocity common and expected.
 - b. The selfish man, woman, spouse, the spoiled child, the ravenous animal – these are notorious examples of living to receive, with no real desire to give!
- 3. It is more blessed to give than to receive because to give is to live on the higher level.
 - a. For to give is essentially Divine.
 - (1) God lives to bless his universe of created beings; it is his disposition to bless; his Divine habit to give.
 - (2) When we give forth of ourselves to others, we are living the life that is intrinsically Divine.

- b. For to give is to be Christ like.
 - (1) He “went about doing good,” giving of himself.
 - (2) He lived to enlighten, to comfort, to bestow, to redeem.
 - (3) He lived and died thus giving himself for the salvation of sinners.
 - (4) It was little indeed that he received; it was simply everything that he gave to mankind. Cf. Phil.2:5-8.
- c. For, also, in a sense, it is angelic to give, as Heb.1:14 says in speaking of angels: “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.?”
- d. For to give is elevating, spiritually uplifting, soul comforting.
 - (1) For to be constantly receiving is to be in danger of becoming selfish, of making our own poor self the central object of regard, of continually fresh supplies for satisfaction – (It becomes, What more can you do for me?) In a word, of sinking deeper and deeper into moral and spiritual degeneracy!
 - (2) But to be giving of self – to be spending time, thought, sympathy, strength, money or material things, on behalf of others – is to be sowing in the soil of our souls the seeds of all that is sweetest and noblest and to be reaping the greatest of profits or spiritual blessings.
 - (3) It is the building up in ourselves a character that our Lord will delight to look upon.
 - (4) To receive is to superficially and momentarily happy or blessed; but to give is to be inwardly and abidingly blessed.
- 4. It is more blessed to give than to receive:
 - a. Because it delivers us from ourselves – from the bonds of selfishness.
 - b. Because by it we are “laying up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life,” 1Tim.6:17-19.
 - c. Because it brings us nearer to God as imitators of his Son Jesus Christ.
- 5. It is no wonder the Lord said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And it is no wonder his apostle calls upon us as his disciples to remember these words of the Lord!

D. IN LK.17:32 JESUS CALLS UPON US TO REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE. WHY?

1. See Gen.19:12-26. Read and examine briefly.
2. No doubt one of the reasons we should remember her is that her sad history is a fearful warning to backsliders.
 - a. “Backsliders” is a biblical term, Prov.14:14; Jer.2:19; 3:6,8,11,12,14,22; 5:6; 8:5; 14:7; 31:22; 49:4; Hos.4:16; 11:7; 14:4.
 - b. Lot’s wife had taken the initial steps to receive her deliverance and salvation, but failed.
 - c. Her case warns us “to forget the things that are behind,” and to keep “reaching forth unto those things which are before.” See Phil.3:13,14.
3. Remember her hopeful beginning in abandoning Sodom under the Lord’s guiding hand, Vv.15-17.
4. Remember the possible cause of her backsliding.
 - a. The bitter root of her sin and error was no doubt unbelief.
 - b. If she had possessed strong faith in God, his promise and his threat, she would have gone forward with an eye wholly fixed on the goal set for her and intent on God’s command.
 - c. Faith turns from all else to look to him lone. Cf. Abraham; Joseph.
 - d. Her unbelief, her lack of trust, led to her disobedience.
 - (1) She broke the command, “Look not behind thee,” V.17.
 - (2) She stood still, and looked back with a longing heart on what she had left behind.
 - (3) Our own sinful past (what we have left behind) gains power over us when our faith fails and our eye turns away from what God has set before us – when we take our eye off of Jesus, his word and his example.
 - (4) Her sinful act of disobedience was a grace offence against God and his holy will, for God hates sin! Cf. 1Jno.3:4; Heb.3:13.
 - (5) Remember that by such an act Adam, the first man, fell.
 - (6) In the case of the backslider there is always some weakness of faith and or unbelief which leads to some act or acts of disobedience.
 - (7) Her looking back implied regret at leaving and perhaps doubt as to whether there were good enough reasons for leaving the city. Was it worth it, in other words? Of course, she learned, to late, that it was!
5. Remember the consequences of her backsliding, V.26.

- a. Destruction. This is the final, fatal consequences of impenitent backsliding.
 - b. Remember this. For it is necessary for one to continue on the pathway of faith to the end – continue on it till we have reached the safety of the summit – heaven itself! Cf. 1Pet.1:3-5,9.
 - c. When one has escaped “the corruption that is in the world through lust” he must not look back; he must not go back lest the latter end be worse with him than the first.
6. Lot’s wife’s experience is another example of why the Bible says things were “written aforetime.” See Rom.15:4; 1Cor.10:11. Cf. 2Tim.3:16,17.

E. EATING THE LORD’S SUPPER ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK IS TO BE DONE IN REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS, Lk.22:19,20; 1Cor.11:23-26; Ac.20:7.

1. It’s a memorial feast.
2. It’s done in remembrance of the Lord and his sacrifice for us. Cf. The O.T. Sabbath and the Passover Feast, Exo.20:8; Deut.5:15; 16:12.
3. It’s done to proclaim the Lord’s death and his 2nd Coming. Cf. 2Tim.2:8; Rom.4:25; 5:8-10.

F. ACCORDING TO JUDE 17,18 WE ARE ADMONISHED TO REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLES. Cf. Heb.2:1-4; Lk.1:1-4.

1. The apostles of Jesus are the official spokesmen for the risen Lord Jesus Christ, his “Ambassadors,” who have been given “the ministry of reconciliation,” and who have had “the word of reconciliation” committed to them, 2Cor.5:17-20.
2. To hear them is to hear the Lord, is to hear the Father in heaven, Mt. 10:40; Lk.10:16; Jno.13:20.
3. They were the Spirit-filled, Spirit-guided, Spirit-moved, Spirit-inspired spokesmen revealing to mankind the mind of God to the mind of man, his human agents to bind and to loose on earth what had already been bound and loosed in heaven, Mt.16:18,19; 18:18; Jno.14:25,26; 15:26,27; 16:7,12-15; 17:6-8,14-21; Jno.20:19-23; Lk.24:44-49; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4; 1Cor.2:1-13; 14:37; Eph.3:1-5; 1Jno.1:1-5; 4:6.
4. To remember the words of the apostles of Christ, who presently sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel, is to hear, heed,

believe and obey them, Mt.19:28; 2Tim.4:-1-5;Tit.2:15; 2Cor.13:2,10; 2Th.3:6-15.

G. TO THE BACKSLIDER, REV.2:5 TELLS US WHAT TO REMEMBER AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. Cf. Ac.8:18-24.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Other important things we must remember in order to be prepared here and for eternity.
 - a. That we have a God to glorify, Mt.5:16; 1Cor.6:19,20; 10:31; Gal.1:5; Eph.3:21; 1Pet.4:16.
 - b. That we have a Savior to imitate, 1Pet.2:20-23. Cf. 1Cor.11:1; Phil.2:5ff.
 - c. That we have a body to control, 1Cor.9:27; Gal.5:24; 6:14; Col.3:1-7; Jas.1:12-15; 1Jno.2:1,2;1Cor.15:34; 1Cor.10:12,13.
 - d. That we have a soul to save, Ac.2:40-42; Phil.2:12.
 - e. We are to remember the words of the Apostle Peter in 2Pet.1:12-15 and to add the things to which he refers – those of Vv.5-11.
 - f. That we have a pay-day (a final judgment) to meet some day, Heb.9:27; Ac.17:31; 2Cor.5:10; Eccl.12:13,4.
2. The Lord stands at the door and knocks, inviting us to enter and accept the salvation he offers, Rev.3:20; Mt.11:28-30.
3. We accept his offer by faith and obedience to the gospel, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-41; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Heb.5:8,9; Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46.