

# REMEMBER / FORGET

October 11, 2020

Some things in the Bible, God tells us to remember,  
But there are other things in scripture, that God tells us to forget.  
Scripture exhorts us not to live in the past. Let's read Eccl. 7:10.

“Say not, What is the cause that the former days were better than these?  
for you do not enquire wisely concerning this.” The good old days!  
Too many people live in the past. “Old things used to be so much better.”  
Paul tells us, forgetting those things which are behind. Philippians 3:13-14.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do,  
forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those  
things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high  
calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13, 14,

The apostle Paul had his eyes more on the future, than the past.  
He was looking for the second coming of Christ,  
Having a better resurrection, and ruling and reigning with Christ.  
Paul had his eyes more on eternity, than on the things in this life.

Before Paul's conversion, he was highly esteemed in the Jewish world.  
As a young man, he would have been voted the most likely to succeed.  
He had a tremendous reputation as the greatest defender of Judaism.

Paul said, I was a Hebrew of the Hebrews; Concerning zeal, persecuting  
the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But  
what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” Phil. 3:4-7.  
Then he met Christ. The Lord Jesus became everything.  
Jesus became his future.

**We are told to remember Lots' wife. Lu. 17:32. Three words.**

**The Second shortest verse in the Bible. Jesus wept is the shortest.**

**Why should we remember Lots wife? She looked back, her heart was there**

**Lot and his wife were told to get out of Sodom, don't even look back.**

**Sodom was a very vile city. It was totally given over to perversion.**

**Lot's wife looked back with longing... this was very displeasing to the Lord.**

**She was turned into a pillar of salt, totally lifeless.**

**“But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” Genesis 19:26.**

**Remember in the book of Ruth, Naomi had two daughters in law.**

**Ruth and Orpah. Orpah went back to her gods, her old lifestyle.**

**This is where her heart was. She was living in the past.**

**Our heart and our mind, must not be in our past life.**

## **Israel in the wilderness**

**When Israel came out of Egypt, there were trials in the wilderness.**

**So often Israel would say, let's go back to Egypt. In Numbers 11:5:**

**“We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.” Numbers 11:5, 6**

**Instead of looking ahead, Israel kept looking back.**

**There's a wonderful promised land waiting for them, with many blessings.**

**But instead, We remember all the good food we had in Egypt.**

**The promises of God are for the future, not the past.**

**God saves the best til last. Remember when Jesus turned water into wine. When the head of the feast had tasted the wine, he declared: Everyone sets out their best wine first, and then the inferior wine, but you have reserved the best wine until last. Jn.2:10.**

**This is true spiritually: the promises of God are for the future, not the past. He has reserved the best until last. Let's not live in the past. Forgetting those things which are behind, Lets reach forward to those things that are ahead of us.**

**In Luke 9:51 Jesus had set his face like a flint, to finish his life's work. Lu 9:51\* And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.... The cross. The face of Jesus was steadfastly set to the future, not to the past. Our face must also be steadfastly set to complete our life's work. Not living in the past,**

**Our eyes must be set on heaven, eternity...  
But also on unfulfilled earthly promises... let's look at Hebrews 12:2...**

**“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2, KJV.**

**Jesus was looking ahead to the tremendous reward waiting for him. The few hours on the cross, we're considered nothing to him. Despised it. What he compared it with the eternal rewards awaiting him. But Jesus set his face like a flint, to fulfill his life's mission. Ps 119:49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. Let's keep our eyes on promises given for the future.**

**There are many things Scripture tells us remember,  
And many things we are to forget, and not forget.**

**Jesus said in Matthew 16:9, to his disciples,...  
Don't you remember the five loaves that fed 5000?  
And how many baskets full were leftover?**

**The word remember means, to keep in mind.**

**Let's keep the right things in mind.**

**Not past injustices that happened to us, or hold bitterness toward others.**

**In Galatians 2:10, we are to remember the poor**

**In Hebrews 13:3, we are to remember those who are in bonds,**

**Remember those who are persecuted for the gospel. Pray for them.**

**In Deuteronomy 6:12,**

**We must beware... not forget the Lord when prosperity comes. Dt.8:11-14**

**“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: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 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;”**

**Prosperity can be very dangerous. It's so easy to forget the Lord.**

**We do not rely on the Lord, when everything is easy and prospering.**

**Do not forget the Lord, all these blessings came from him.**

**Very few people can handle prosperity, prosperity ruins many people.**

**God also remembers and forgets certain things**

**Heb 8:12\* For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

**Heb 10:17\* And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

**Jeremiah 31:34 - I will remember their sins no more**

**Micah 7:19 - cast all their sins into the depths of the sea....forgetfulness**

**We call this the sea of forgetfulness. Throw a quarter into the ocean**

**It's so wonderful that God remembers our sins iniquities no more.**

**But we must continue in the faith and live right.**

## **There are certain things that we are to remember in the past**

**Deuteronomy 8:2-14 Certain verses. “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.**

**Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.**

**For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it;**

**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: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 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;”**  
**Deuteronomy 8:2-14, KJV.**

**Remember the life of Joseph, How he was betrayed by his brothers?  
Sold as a slave into Egypt, put in prison there for a crime he didn't do  
As a young man Joseph suffered many cruel things.  
But then God changed everything. And made him ruler over many nations.**

**Later when he married, he had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.  
Manasseh means to forget, Ephraim means fruitfulness.**

**There is an important spiritual truth here.**

**Many times we need to forget bad things of the past, to be fruitful now.**

**Genesis 41:51-52:**

**“And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father’s house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” Genesis 41:51, 52, KJV.**

## **Remember the Lord when you are young**

**“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;” Ecclesiastes 12:1, KJV.**

**It is so important to plant spiritual truths in young hearts.**

**Things we learn in our youth we never forget.**

**I still remember a sermon when I was seven years old.**

**This was a Thanksgiving message, when I was seven years old.**

**This was 66 years ago from me.**

**A Farm family had a great harvest, they were so thankful.**

**The next year, it was a terrible drought, almost no harvest. Very angry.**

**The lesson: we need to thank God in the good times and difficult times.**

**I heard this message in 1954. I still remember it today.**

**When I witness to old folks in nursing homes, many of them are very open.  
Why? Because they had good seeds planted in them when young.  
People remember. I have a burden for our young people.  
Plant good seeds in them when they are very young.  
Give them an eternal vision. These things stay in them all their life.**

### **Many other things to remember**

**“And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt,  
and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: Deut. 15:15; 16:12; 24:18, 24:22,  
We are told over and over again to remember the bondage that God  
delivered us from. To keep his commandments and be faithful to him.  
Remember the Lord who delivered us.**

**Yet, we are not to live in the past.**

**Oh why were the former days so much better than these.**

**We are not remember all our past sins and failures.**

**The apostle Paul had a terrible past, but he didn't Live in his past.**

**He said in Romans 8:1:**

**Ro 8:1\* There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in  
Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

**Paul had a terrible past, he persecuted about 10,000 Christians.**

**Yet Gods own blood paid his debt, and our debt.**

**We are not to be tormented with our past failures,**

**Or always be thinking about them.**

**So there're many things that God wants us to remember.**

**And there are many things that God wants us to forget.**

**May the Lord help us to keep in mind, the things we should remember.**

**Cannot dwell upon the things we shouldn't forget. Amen.**

