

DO YOU REMEMBER?

-A little boy once told his teacher: “Grandma says she’s seen it all, done it all and heard it all! She just can’t remember it all!”

-Can anyone relate? (...)

-Is it hard to remember things at times? (...)

-Can anyone share their earliest memory? (...)

-Do you remember how old you were? (...)

-Today we are going to look at what the Bible says about remembering.

-First I want to tell you a story about a woman who loved scripture and memorized it. As she got older and was lying in her bed in her last days, she began to recite one particular scripture. It was one that meant a lot to her. As she was dying, she would say this scripture everyday. It is #1 on our Verse Sheet so let’s read it together out loud: (2 Timothy 1:12b “For *I know* Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”)

-This lady would recite this verse on her bed as she was dying. And then one day she said, “For *I know* Whom I have believed and am persuaded...” and then she couldn’t remember the rest of the verse. As her days neared their end, she only remembered “*I know* Whom I have believed...” Then right at the very end, all she could say is “*I know.*”

-What do you think she knew? (She knew she was saved.)

-That’s what this verse is saying. She knew what she believed, that Jesus died on the cross for her sins and rose again and He was keeping her salvation until the day that she was to be with Him. All she needed to *remember* is “I know.”

-Can you say that? Do you “know” that your salvation is secure?

-Your salvation can be secure if you trust Jesus as your Savior, even if you can’t *remember* one single thing or one single verse. She *remembered* that “she knew” Whom she believed in. And that was all that mattered.

-So, today we are going to look at verses that have the word “remember” in them and how they relate to God and us.

-Let’s begin by reading verse #2 on our Verse Sheet together: (1 Chronicles 16:12 “*Remember* the marvelous works that He hath done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth.”)

-In this verse, it is a command to remember His marvelous works.

-*Remembering* His “marvelous works” requires us to *think* back on them.

-Let’s think back to Genesis, at the time of creation. What was one of His marvelous works from the beginning of time that was written in Genesis? (He CREATED! He created the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, earth and all that is on it, He created man and woman, plants, animals, etc.)

-Now let's think back to the New Testament, what was a marvelous work He did during that time? (...)

-He gave us His Son _____(Jesus), Who died on the _____(Cross), And He rose from the _____(dead), to save us from our _____(sins).

-So that is a "marvelous work" we always need to remember because He did that for each one of us.

-Can you think of any other marvelous thing that He did in your own life? (He fed us, He protected us, He gave us His Holy Spirit, He loves us, He heals us either on this earth or in Heaven, etc.)

-On healing, some things are not healed in this life and some are. But, someday, this "marvelous work" and wonder of perfect healing He will do for all of us in His Kingdom.

-We are to remember what He has done for us.

-When we start to remember what He has done for us, it is an anecdote for fear. If we focus on remembering and praise, than the fear goes away. We need to remember, if He has done things for us in the past, He is going to do things for us in the future.

-Let's read our next verse together from Psalm 25. David wrote this Psalm and in it he wrote the word "remember" at least 3 times. Let's read verse #3 together on our Verse Sheet: (Psalm 25:6 "Remember, Oh Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness.")

-Does anyone know what is different about this verse? (It is not telling us to remember, it is asking God to remember! "Remember God, YOUR tender mercies and YOUR loving kindness.")

-And will He remember? (Yes!)

-But, does God forget anything? (Well, in a way He does. He does forget our sins. He remembers everything and when we ask Him to forgive us of our sins, He chooses to throw our sins as far as the east is from the west, not remembering them anymore.)

-I love this part about His tender mercies. He is merciful to forget our sins.

-And then, His tender mercies are new every morning for us! We start every morning with His tender mercies and loving kindness.

-Let's move on to verse #4. It is from Psalm 119, which is the longest chapter in the Bible. We are not sure of who wrote it but biblical scholars, through studies, believe the writer was being persecuted when he wrote it. Let's read it together: (Psalm 119:49 "Remember Your Word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.")

-Is this a command to us or is this a "request" to God? (It is a request to God because it says "remember Your Word to Your servant")

-He is asking "Lord, remember what You promised me, that causes me to hope!"

-There are many promises that God gave us in His Word that gives us hope. Let's say some together. As I read a verse, you fill in the blank with the words of hope that verse gives us:

-John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave _____ (His only begotten Son), that whosoever should believe in Him, *will not* _____ (*perish*) but have _____ (*everlasting life*)."

-Does this verse give you hope? (...) Why?(...)

-What about this one from Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave you or _____ (forsake) you."

-Does that bring you hope? Why?(...)

-How about this one from Psalm 23: "The Lord is my _____ (Shepherd), I shall not _____ (want)."

-He promises to meet our needs, to have food and shelter.

-How many of you remember this verse, John 14:2: "In my Father's house are many _____ (mansions), I go to prepare a place for _____ (you)."

-This is another promise that gives us hope, a promise to be with Him.

-We live in a world of turmoil. Does it encourage you to know that He has the whole world in His hands? This promise of hope comes from Psalm 95:4 and it says "In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him!" And in I Chronicles 29:11-12 (ESV) it says: "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all."

-Nothing that is going on in this world is a surprise to God. That may be hard to understand but He is not surprised. He is in control and that gives me hope.

-Let's continue and read verse #5 together on our Verse Sheet: (2 Timothy 2:8 "Remember that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead according to my gospel.")

-Paul wrote this while he was in prison to Timothy who was discouraged at this time. Paul says to Timothy, "Remember one thing, Timothy, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead according to the Gospel." In other words Christ is alive!

-Can you imagine coming each week to a church or bible study and worshipping a dead god?

-Many religions worship a dead god, a statue or figurine representing them or even proclaim he is dead but they still follow his teachings. Christians are the only people who worship a *living* God.

-He is living because He died and He rose from the dead and lives in Heaven now, preparing a home for us. We come together to celebrate a living God and that is why we have the hope of an eternal life. Christ gave it to us. But, He also gave us something when He left earth.

-Let's read our next verse, #6 on our Verse Sheet, to find out what that is: (John 14:26 "But *the Helper, the Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your *remembrance* all things that I have said to you.")

**-According to this verse, Who did God send us? (The Helper, the Holy Spirit)
-And this was a promise Jesus made to His disciples. When He was on earth, He was with them all the time, but He couldn't be with everyone all the time because He was in human form. So it was a good thing He was going to Heaven because when He went to Heaven He was going to send His Holy Spirit Who could be with everyone at the same time all the time. And, His Holy Spirit will help them *remember* all that He taught them while here on earth.**

**-The Holy Spirit Who lives within us will bring to memory what Jesus taught us.
-Now He may not bring to my remembrance *everything* at that moment, but He will bring to remembrance what I need at that moment.**

**-For example, if I met a person and I immediately knew that person did not know Jesus, I know that God will give me the right words.
-It could be something very general like "Do you know that God loves you?" And possibly "How do you know He loves you?" "Do you know what would happen to you if you died tonight?" Those may be questions He brings to our *remembrance* if it is what He wants at that moment. If not, He will give us what He wants us to say to that person for that moment that he/she may need to hear.**

**-Let's continue with things to remember from God's Word.
-Let's read our next verse, #7 together, it verse was written by the prophet Isaiah to the rebellious Israelites: (Isaiah 46:9 "*Remember* the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.")**

**-Is this a warning? (yes)
-Even though this is a warning, it is also an encouragement. He is saying to the Israelites, remember the former days of old when I fed you in the wilderness for 40 years, how I protected you and freed you from slavery in Egypt, remember how I led you to the Promise Land?
-We can do the same things in our lives.
-Who here can say God has fed them all their lives?(...)
-Who can say I have had clothes on every day of my life?(...)
-I have a roof over my head and food to eat?(...)
-As we look at the former things that God has done for us, we will know that He is God.**

-Can a dead God do those things?(...)

-Even though it is a warning, we need to remember that there is only one God and He is ALIVE, providing for us each and every day!

-Let's read together #8 on our Verse Sheet: (Luke 22:19 "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in *remembrance* of me.")

-Who is this that took the bread and broke it? (Jesus)

-Then He told them to do this communion in remembrance of Him. In other words, don't take communion lightly.

-When you receive the bread and the cup, remember that He died a painful, humiliating death, separated from the Father and carried the sins of the world on His shoulders so we could have life everlasting.

-Our last verse was said by the thief on the cross who made a request to Jesus who was being crucified beside him. Let's read it together, #9 on our Verse Sheet: (Luke 23:42 "Then he said, 'Jesus, *remember* me when You come into Your kingdom.'")

-We may think that some people are hopeless, that they will never come to know Jesus during their lives. Or we think we have to do ministry during our lives to enter Heaven. But the scene here is Jesus is on the cross, between two criminals as He died. One mocked Him but the other knew Who He was. He acknowledged that Jesus was His Lord and just looked at Him and said, "Lord, just remember me today."

-Do you know what Jesus said to Him in the next verse? Luke 23:43 "Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

-That is the biggest encouragement because most of us have heard of stories of people on their deathbeds who have accepted the Lord as their Savior before they passed on. If they ask Jesus to forgive them of their sins, they can go to Heaven just as those who have lived their whole lives for Him. That tells us to never give up on someone.

-Let's read our last verse together, #10 on our Verse Sheet: (Galatians 2:10 "They desire only that we should *remember* the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.")

-There are verses all over the Bible that say to *remember* the poor, remember the widows, remember the people in prison. We see God's heart throughout His Word to *remember* anyone in a hard place.

-He wants us to *remember* those who may be poor in spirit and those who are physically poor and in need. To reach out and help them to *remember* Who God is and what He has done for them and what He can do for them.

-So today, no matter where we are at or whatever we are facing, let's be encouraged to *remember* what a great, loving and kind God we serve and all His tender mercies that are fresh and new for us everyday.

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2. I Chronicles 16:12 “*Remember* the marvelous works that He hath done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth.”
3. Psalm 25:6 “*Remember*, Oh Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness.”
4. Psalm 119:49 “*Remember* Your Word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.”
5. 2 Timothy 2:8 “*Remember* that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”
6. John 14:26 “But *the Helper, the Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your *remembrance* all things that I have said to you.”
7. Isaiah 46:9 “*Remember* the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.”
8. Luke 22:19 “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in *remembrance* of me.”
9. Luke 23:42 “Then he said, ‘Jesus, *remember* me when You come into Your kingdom.’”
10. Galatians 2:10 “They desire only that we should *remember* the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.”