

Remember...

*(Remember the past, live in the present and anticipate the future.)*

...the past.

- How many among us have ever had a parent or grandparent make the comment “I can remember back in my day when a (*loaf of bread, gallon of gas, etc.*) only cost (*so much*)”? But then again, how much was the average wage then too? Or “man when I was a kid I never spoke to my parents (*or other authorities*) the way they do today and got away with it”! And there are other differences now than there were then. It would probably be better to ask how many of us **didn't** have an older person make such statements. They go on to say how much simpler things were then. And today, for many of us, we see how things actually **were** simpler even just a few short years ago. It's good from time to time to just sit back and reminisce the days past and the satisfaction of having lived when life **seemed** so simple then. And there are some things many among us would like to forget (*disappointments, tragedies, deaths, sadness*). But, as the saying goes, “those who forget the past will be condemned to repeat it”. Which is one of the reasons we have books on history. Sadly there are so many people who have either never read them or have preferred to remain ignorant of the consequences of past mistakes.

**Ecc 11:7** Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun: **8** But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity.

- **Job** understood this saying and those who don't understand it, who've never experienced the days of darkness, haven't lived long enough to be familiar with them yet.

**Job 14:1** Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

- Even the idea of living many years is only considered a “vapour” (*James 4:14*) and a few days in the scheme of things. We need to remember what we were and did and try never to return to those old ways which separated us from **God**.

**Eph 2:2** Wherein in time past ye **walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **3** Among whom also we all **had** our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and **were** by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **4** But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, **5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: **7** That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

- The way we conducted ourselves in the past, even though maybe for the most part in a good way, should help us while we remember to “even so **now** yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness” (*Rom 6:19*).

Live...in the present.

**Ecc 11:9** Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: **but know thou,**

that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment. **10** Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity.

- In other words, go ahead and do the things that seem right and enjoyable in your own eyes. They may well be according to man's moral standards. But don't forget the old paths, that led us to where we've come to know the Lord, and remain in them. Notice what the prophet Jeremiah prophesied against Jerusalem.

**Jer 6:13** For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. **14** They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. **15** Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. **16** Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

- It is a rebellious and stiff-necked generation that refuses to heed any warnings which will ultimately condemn them to an eternity of loss.

#### Into The Promised Land

- Memorials are set up in order to remember some person, place or occasion that contributed to some local historical event or that actually changed the course of history. Such was the memorial of a pile of 12 stones at the crossing of the Jordan into the promised land. Joshua was commanded to take one man of every tribe of Israel to carry one stone each from the midst of the Jordan while the priests carrying the ark remained there.

**Jos 4:6** That this may be a sign among you, *that* when your children ask *their fathers* in time to come, saying, What *mean* ye by these stones? **7** Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever.

**Jos 4:18** And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, *and* the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as *they did* before.

**Jos 4:20** And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. **21** And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What *mean* these stones? **22** Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. **23** For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which He dried up from before us, until we were gone over: **24** That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

#### The Lord's Supper

Jer 2:32 Can a maid forget her ornaments, *or* a bride her attire? yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.

- How is it that we as members of the church, the bride of Christ, are to remember with what (*rather Whom*) we've been clothed with? It's amazing that the Bible has been so preserved over the centuries, with both Old Testament (*through the likes of the Dead Sea Scrolls*) and New Testament (*through different codices and ancient manuscripts*) "books which are regarded as having divine authority and which comprise our Bible". [How We Got The Bible by Neil R. Lightfoot, pg.152] But without some sort of ongoing memorial, I wonder how such an important document that contains the inspired word of God could have survived. How could the message of God's love and salvation be preserved without a constant reminder of its existence?

1Co 11:24 And when He had given thanks, He brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.** 25 After the same manner also *He took* the cup, when He had supped, saying, **This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.**

- The emblems of the Lord's supper serve, as what the pile of 12 stones did to physical Israel, to remind us of at what point we entered the promised land, spiritually. Giving His body to be sacrificed, along with the shedding of His blood, became our complete memorial of that world changing event that happened almost two millennia ago. At baptism we cross spiritual Jordan where Jesus, our High Priest (*Heb 9:11*), stands in the midst, holding back the waters of separation, to welcome us over. Once in the church, Jesus then allows the waters behind to separate us from the old world with all its sinfulness, just as the Red Sea resumed after the Israelites left the land of Egypt "and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (*1 Cor 10:2*). They were recognized with Moses and thus in **that** covenant relationship (*which included the covenant of circumcision made with Abraham*) which was with God and was to be kept through the law that would follow.

Rom 4:8 Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. 9 *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

- Our baptism, a "spiritual circumcision", places us in a covenant relationship with God through the gospel of Christ, whether physically circumcised or not.

1Co 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

- We continue in that covenant relationship only as long as we are faithful to Him "in putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (*Col 2:11*). But, just

as the Israelites had the desire to return to Egypt (*Ex 16:2-3*), we too can return to our sinful pasts.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her (*Rome with all her paganism and perversions*), My people (*speaking to Christians living in the Roman territories*), that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

- While in the church, we look to that ultimate land of promise where “God shall wipe away all tears...and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (*Rev 21:4*).

Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember (*Gk.3425- recollect; by implication to reward or punish*) no more.

- Recollect- Webster: to remember, especially with some effort. Because of the covenant relationship between God and His children, He will not make any effort to bring up the sins of our past as long as we remember and do His will.

Anticipate... the future.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

- There have been many false prophets down through time since Jesus “was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (*Act 1:9*) who have tried, and failed, to predict when He “shall so come in like manner” (*Act 1:11*). And many “false teachers” among the membership of the church since that time also.

2Ti 4:3 For the time **will come** when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But **watch thou** in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 **Henceforth** there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all** them also **that love His appearing**.

- Ask yourself “Am I one that will love His appearing?” Are you looking forward to Jesus coming in the judgment to judge the world?

Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

- When we, humbly and without bias, judge our own words and deeds, using the Bible as our gauge, our works, whether good or bad, are exposed for what they are. Am I following the New Testament in measuring where I'll be standing at the judgment, whether with "the sheep on His right hand" or "the goats on the left"? (Mat 25:33) Have I been reborn "through the blood of the everlasting covenant" and "perfect (Gk.2675- thoroughly complete) in every good work to do His will" and "well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever"? (Heb 13:20-21)

Mat 26:28 For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

- Sin is a cancer that only the blood of Christ can remit. But remission doesn't mean those sins can never be committed again either. The only way they can stay in remission is for the child of God, through Christ, to "continue in" His "word, then are" we His "disciples indeed" (Jn 8:31).

Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember (Gk.3415- recollect) no more.

Psa 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear (Heb.3373- revere) Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.

- To prepare for our future home in Heaven we can't live in the past, but not forget that we once were "strangers from the covenants and promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph 2:12). Remembering the past should help to not repeat the mistakes made then. So how can I live today, what must I do in anticipation of Christ's return?

#1. Have you heard?

#2. Do you believe?

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on Him **in Whom they have not believed?** and how shall they believe in Him **of Whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher?

#3. Have you repented?

Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

#4. Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Joh 15:10 If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

#7. Are you growing?

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, Who is the Head,  
*even* Christ:

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