

“Wherefore Remember!”
Ephesians 2:11

Introduction:

1. Well - It's The Last Sunday Of The Year!
 - In Just A Few Days Time:
 - We Will Be Celebrating:
 - A Brand-New Year - 2020!
2. One Of The Things That We Often Do:
 - During This Time Of Year:
 - After All The Busyness Of Christmas:
 - Comes To An End:
 - Is Take Time To:
 - Reflect & Remember Some Of The Things That Happened In The Past Year!
3. But - What Does A New Year Really Mean?
 - After All:
 - Its Just The Change Of A Date On A Calendar:
 - Isn't It?
 - And - A Man-Made Calendar At That!
 - Its Just The Difference:
 - Of A Single Moment In Time:
 - Isn't It?
 - But - I Think If We're Honest With Ourselves:
 - A New Year **Does** Bring:
 - A Lot With It!
 - **IE:** Just As You Are Driving Home From A Long Trip - See That First Sign That Tells You How Much Further You Have To Go - Each New Sign, Every Mile Marker Passed - You Are Closer To Your Destination! Closer To Your Home! This Is How A Christian Should Consider Each New Year!
4. And So - The New Year Brings:
 - Memories & Reflections On What Has Happened!
 - Sometimes - We Enjoy Watching:
 - “Year In Review” Programs On Television!
 - Because - I Often Forget:
 - What Took Place!
 - Some Events:
 - Were Exciting!
 - Other Events:
 - Were Discouraging!
5. On January 1, 2019, Noone Would Have Thought:
 - That - In March - All Boeing 737 Max 8 & 9's Would Be Grounded, Because Of Two Major Plane Crashes!
 - Did You Remember That?
 - Or That - In May - The Long-Awaited Mueller Report About Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election Was Released!
 - Did You Remember That?
 - Or That - In April - The Famous Landmark, The Notre Dame Cathedral In Paris, Was Nearly Burned To The Ground!
 - Did You Remember That?
 - Or That - In September - The Bahamas Were Almost Wiped Off The Map Due To The Damage Caused By Hurricane Dorian!
 - Did You Remember That?
6. Now - Some Of Those Things:
 - May Or May Not Have Been Earth-Shattering!
 - Or May Or May Not Be Worth Remembering!
 - But - There Are Some Things:
 - That You & I **Should** Remember:
 - And **Must** Remember:
 - As We Embark On This New Year!
 - And This Is Why - For The Last Couple Of Weeks:

- We Have Been Exploring Some Of The Most Important Things:
 - That You & I Need To Remember:
 - In Our Relationship With God!
- 7. The First Thing We Looked At Was:
 - Remembering Our Creator:
 - As We Were Told Back In:
 - Ecclesiastes 12:1 - "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth!"
 - Will You Remember:
 - **Your** Creator - This New Year?
 - His Presence With You?
 - His Power Over You?
 - And His Purpose For You?
- 8. Then - We Looked At:
 - Remembering The Works Of The Lord:
 - As Asaph Resolved To Do:
 - Back In Psalm 77:11 - "I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old!"
 - Will You Make This Your Resolution:
 - This New Year?
 - To Remember The Lord's Works Of Deliverance & Direction:
 - And Even Judgment?
- 9. We Also Looked At:
 - Remembering The Word Of The Lord:
 - From Another Resolution We Found:
 - In Psalm 119:16:
 - **"I Will Not Forget Thy Word!"**
 - This Too Is An Important Resolution To Make:
 - For This New Year!
 - To Remember The Great Power & Value:
 - Of God's Word!
 - From Psalm 19 - We Learned How God's Word:
 - Is Perfect & Sure, Right & Pure, As Well As:
 - Clean & True & Righteous Altogether!
 - This Is One Of The Reasons:
 - Why - For The Past 12 Years:
 - We Have Encouraged You To Read Through The Entire Bible Together:
 - Each Year - As A Church!
 - It's So That We:
 - "Will Not Forget [His] Word!"
- 10. Last Sunday:
 - We Spent Time Remembering:
 - The True & Complete Christmas Story - Which Details The Coming Of Jesus Christ:
 - Into This World:
 - That Was Prophesied Hundreds Of Years Before By Prophets:
 - Like Isaiah!
 - Who Wrote That The Messiah Would Come As:
 - The "Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, [And] The Prince Of Peace!"
 - Did You Remember Jesus:
 - In Those Ways - Last Week?
- 11. So - To Sum Up:
 - What We've Already Looked At:
 - Remember:
 - The World:
 - Of Your Creator!
 - Remember:
 - The Works:
 - Of The Lord!
 - Remember:
 - The Word:

- Of Our God!
 - And - Remember:
 - The Wonder:
 - Of The Savior!
12. Well - This Morning:
- We Will Find The Next Thing To Remember:
 - In Paul's Letter To The Ephesians:
 - Chapter 2 - Ephesians 2!
 - Where - Paul Reminds Us:
 - Of The Wonder:
 - Not Only Of Our Savior:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - But - Also - The Wonder:
 - Of Our Salvation!
 - Because - In 2:11 - Paul Begins With These Words:
 - "Wherefore Remember!" (2x)
 - Here Is Another Call:
 - For The People Of God:
 - To Remember Something!
 - Because - This Is Addressed:
 - To All Those Who Have Been Saved:
 - According To What We Find In The Familiar Verses Of:
 - 2:8-9 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: / Not of works, lest any man should boast!"
 - So - If You Have Been Saved:
 - In This Way:
 - By Grace - Through Faith - In Christ:
 - You Now Have Something Else:
 - To Remember!
13. And What Are You To Remember?
- 2:11b-22 - "That ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; / 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: / 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. / 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; / 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; / 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: / 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. / 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. / 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; / 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; / 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: / 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit!"
14. We Find In These Verses:
- Three Things That You Can & Should Remember:
 - About The Wonder:
 - Of Your Own Salvation:
 - If You Are A Child Of God Today!

* First - Remember The Wonder Of:

1. What God Saved You From!

- Which Is What Paul Describes:
 - In 2:11-12!
 - Now - Even Though You Shouldn't Dwell On Your Past Too Much:
 - I Think It Is Important & Biblical:
 - To Remember *Some* Things About Your Past!
 - After All - Your Past Is Part:
 - Of Your Testimony!
- Even The Apostle Paul Did This:

- Back In The Book Of Acts & Some Of His Other Epistles:
 - When He Shared His Own Testimony:
 - About What God Had Saved Him From!
- He Took No Pride In His Past!
 - But - When He Remembered His Past:
 - It Put The Wonder Of His Own Salvation:
 - Into A Whole New Light!
 - This Is Why He Could Tell Timothy:
 - In 1 Timothy 1:12-15 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; / 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. / 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. / 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief!”
- So - Remember The Wonder:
 - Of What God Saved You From!
 - And Give Him The Glory:
 - For The “Great Things He Hath Done” In Your Heart & In Your Life!
- According To Ephesians 2:11-12:
 - God Saved You From A Past That Could Be Described As:
 - **“Without!”**
 - In Your Past - You Were:
- Without Holiness!
 - 2:11 - “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands!”
 - Three Terms Are Used In This Verse:
 - That Describe Your Original Nature:
 - As A Sinner!
 - A Gentile:
 - Was A Person Who Was Not One Of:
 - God’s Chosen People:
 - The Jewish Nation!
 - Uncircumcision:
 - Describes A Person Who Did Not Have A Part In:
 - God’s Covenant:
 - Of Blessing & Promise! And:
 - Flesh - “In The Flesh”:
 - Is Often Used In Scripture:
 - To Describe The Manner Of A Person’s Life - Contrary To:
 - God’s Call & Will!
 - And - All Three Terms:
 - Imply A Character & A Conduct:
 - Of Sinfulness & Unholiness!
 - And - Because Of This Nature:
 - You & I Stood Condemned!
 - In Hebrews 12:14 - We Are Told To:
 - “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!”
 - Without Holiness:
 - There Was No Chance For You To See The Lord:
 - Except As Your Judge!
 - But - Also - You Were:
- Without Heritage!
 - 2:12a - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise!”
 - Now - Paul Was Writing To A Church:
 - That Was Mostly Made Up Of Non-Jewish Believers There In The City Of Ephesus!
 - They Were True Gentiles!
 - And So - As Gentiles:
 - Both Nationally & Spiritually:
 - They Were “Aliens” & “Strangers” From God’s People & From God’s Plan Through

- Them!
- And - It Was A Dangerous Place:
 - For Them To Be!
 - But - This Describes You As Well:
 - When You Were “Without Christ!” You Were An Alien & A Stranger To God’s People & God’s Promises!
- And That Meant You Also Were:
 - Without Hope!
 - 2:12 - “Having No Hope!”
 - Whether You Realized It Or Not:
 - Your Future Was Bleak:
 - And Your Eternity Was Dark!
 - And All This Was Because:
 - You Were - 2:12:
- “Without God In The World!
 - This Is Who You Were!
 - This Is What You Were Like!
 - And - Sometimes - You Need To Remember This!
 - Remember That:
 - Without God:
 - You Were:
 - Without Holiness!
 - Without A Heritage!
 - And - Without Hope!
 - But - Praise God:
 - This Is What The Lord Came:
 - To Save You From!
 - A Past - That Was Bleak & Completely Hopeless!
 - So Remember This Morning:
 - The Wonder Of Your Salvation!

* Because - Then - Paul Turns To The Wonder Of:

2. What God Saved You By!

- Which We Find In:
 - 2:13-18 - Where Three Times We Find The Word:
 - “Peace!”
 - In 2:14 - Jesus Is Called:
 - “Our Peace!”
 - In 2:15 - Jesus Is Said To Have:
 - “Made Peace!”
 - And - In 2:17 - Jesus Is Said to Have:
 - “Preached Peace To You Which Were Afar Off, And To Them That Are Nigh!”
 - And This Is What / Who God Saved You By!
 - Not Just The Principle:
 - Of Peace! But The Person:
 - Of Peace! Even, As We Looked At From Isaiah Last Week:
 - The Prince Of Peace:
 - Christ Jesus The Lord!
 - And What Does This Peace Do:
 - For You - When You Turn To & Trust In:
 - Jesus As Your Savior & Peace?
 - It Becomes:
 - A Peace Of Reconciliation!
 - Reconciliation Between You:
 - And Your Creator:
 - Who You Offended:
 - With Your Sin!
 - According To 2:13 - You Were:
 - “Far Off!” - Still:
 - Without Holiness!

- Without Heritage!
- Without Hope!
- But - **With** An Infinite Debt:
 - To A Holy & Eternal God!
- But - “Christ Jesus” Brought You:
 - “Nigh” Through His Own Blood!
 - He Shed His Blood:
 - To Pay The Debt You Owed For Your Sin Against God!
- This Was Necessary - Because:
 - Hebrews 9:22 - “Without shedding of blood is no remission!”
 - And So - This Is What God Saved You:
 - And Reconciled You By!
 - The Precious Blood Of Christ!
- But - It Was Also:
- A Peace Of Restoration!
 - Restoration Between You:
 - And The People Of God:
 - Which - At One Time - You Had Absolutely No Part Of!
 - This Is What We Find In:
 - 2:14-17 - “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; / 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; / 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: / 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh!”
 - In Christ:
 - There Is No Longer:
 - Jew - And There Is No Longer:
 - Gentile - Or Any Other:
 - Differentiation Within The People Of God!
 - And This Is What Should Make The Church:
 - Such An Amazing Spectacle:
 - To The World!
 - Remember What We Read Back In:
 - Colossians 3:11 - “Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all!”
 - And This Restoration Affects:
 - How We Think About Each Other:
 - And Treat Each Other:
 - With Peace!
 - Colossians 3:12-13 - “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; / Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye!”
 - God Saved You By:
 - A Life Changing Peace!
 - And - Since - 2:14 - “He – Jesus – Is Our Peace!”
 - Now - 2:18 - “We Both [Also] Have Access By One Spirit Unto The Father!”
 - What A Privilege!
 - To Be Saved:
 - **By & Unto:**
 - This Kind Of Peace!
 - It Is A Peace:
 - That “Passeth All Understanding!”
 - So - Remember The Wonder Of Your Salvation:
 - And What God Saved You By!
 - The Prince Of Peace!
 - Whose Shed Blood Bought You:
 - A Peace Of Reconciliation:
 - With God - And:
 - A Peace Of Restoration:

- With Men!

* And That Leads Us To - Third - The Wonder Of:

3. ***What God Saved You To!***

- Which We Can Read About In:

- 2:19-22 - Where All That You Were:

- ***“Without”*** - In Your Past - You Now ***Have:***

- And Live ***“With”***:

- By The Grace Of God!

- Now - You Have The Promise:

- Of True Fellowship!

- 2:19 - “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God!”

- God Saved You To Become Part Of:

- His Family!

- Contrast This Verse:

- With 2:12 - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise!”

- That Was Then - In Your Past!

- What About Now?

- 2:19 - “No More Strangers And Foreigners!”

- Instead - You Can Enjoy Full Fellowship:

- As - “Fellow-Citizens” - And:

- As Family - Within The “Household Of God!”

- This Is What God Saved You To!

- Remember This - This New Year!

- You Also Have The Promise:

- Of A True Foundation!

- 2:20 - “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone!”

- What Was Your Life Like Before?

- In Matthew 7:26-27 - Jesus Gave Us The Parable Of The Foolish Man - And Said -

“Every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: / And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it!”

- When You & I Were Living Our Lives:

- Without Holiness, Without A Heritage, & Without Hope:

- We Were Fools - Building Our Houses:

- Upon The Sand!

- No Foundation!

- No Future!

- Only A Great Fall Was In Store For Us!

- But Now - You Have A True & Firm Foundation:

- Upon Which Your Life Can Be Built:

- With Purpose & Power & Promise!

- As John Peterson Once Wrote:

- “Life Has Purpose Now It never Had Before! There Is Meaning To Each Day And Even More! For A Joy And Peace I Can’t Explain is Mine! Since I Found New Life In Christ My Lord Divine!”

- This Is What God Saved You To!

- Remember This!

- You Also Have The Promise:

- Of A True Filling!

- 2:21-22 - “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: / In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit!”

- Think About & Remember All The Differences:

- Between:

- What God Saved You ***From:***

- And - What God Saved You ***To!***

- Before:
 - You Were **Without** Holiness!
 - But Now - 2:21 - You Are Growing Into:
 - “An Holy Temple In The Lord!”
 - So Now - You Are Holy:
 - To The Lord - And Growing:
 - In His Holiness!
- Before:
 - You Were **Without** A Heritage!
 - But Now - 2:19 - You Are:
 - “Fellow-Citizens With The Saints, And Of The Household Of God!”
 - So Now - You Have A Heritage:
 - From The Lord!
- Before:
 - You Were **Without** Hope!
 - But Now - Not Only Are You:
 - 2:13 - “Made Nigh By The Blood Of Christ!” - But - You Also:
 - 2:18 - “Have Access By One Spirit Unto The Father!”
 - So Now - You Have Hope:
 - In The Lord!
- And - Before:
 - You Were **Without** God!
 - But Now - God Is **With You!**
 - 2:22 - “In Whom Ye Also Are Builded Together For An Habitation Of God Through The Spirit!”
- This Is The Wonder:
 - Of What God Saved You To!

Conclusion:

1. So - If You Have Been Saved:
 - According To The Terms Of Ephesians 2:8-9:
 - “By Grace” Alone!
 - “Through Faith” Alone!
 - In Jesus Christ - Alone!
2. Then - In The Words Of:
 - 2:11 - “Wherefore Remember!” (2x)
 - Remember The Wonder:
 - Of Your Savior - And:
 - Remember The Wonder:
 - Of Your Salvation!
 - Never Forget:
 - And Never Get Over:
 - The Wonder Of:
 - What God Saved You From!
 - What God Saved You By!
 - And - What God Saved You To!
3. Make Sure That These Memories:
 - Are Lasting Memories:
 - For This New Year:
 - And Beyond!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com