

Morning Worship March 25, 2018

"A Blessed Reminder"

Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are instructed by our Lord to do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19 NKJ)

We are told in Scripture - ¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget... (Hebrew 6:10 NKJ) but we are!

The hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" speaks truthfully when it says - Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;

Jesus knew this about us, God knows it –

For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Psalms 103:14 NKJ)

We need reminders of many things, even as Christians, we need to be reminded (and to remember) Christ's death on the cross – so we should take very seriously the task of REMEMBERING, why?

I. Because we are sinfully prone to forget –

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. (Romans 7:18 NKJ)

1. Apart from God grace, Christ's help, we are just plain sinful – "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

"I have a heart, which God knows, I wish I could wring from my body and hurl an infinite distance; a soul which is a cage of unclean birds, a den of loathsome creatures, where dragons haunt and owls do congregate, where every evil beats of ill-omen dwells; a heart too vile to have parallel - ... **deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; ... (Jeremiah 17:9 NKJ)** This is the reason I am forgetful of Christ." C.H. Spurgeon (Known as the Prince of Preachers)

If Spurgeon's heart is such, what is ours? What is yours? God knows, Christ knows our sinfulness will lead us to forget those things we really need to remember that is why we are REMINDED so much in Scripture to "remember":

2. Scripture, about remembering, or against sinful forgetting - **"Remember Lot's wife. (Luke 17:32 NKJ)**

And - **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8 NKJ)**

And **remember** that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. (Deuteronomy 5:15 NKJ)

This phrase **remember** that you were a slave in the land of Egypt is repeated in Deuteronomy 15:15; 16:12; 24:18; and 24:22

"And you shall **remember** that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. (Deuteronomy 8:2 NKJ)

"Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. (Deuteronomy 9:7 NKJ)

Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will **remember** the name of the LORD our God. (Psalm 20:7 NKJ)

Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks at the **remembrance** of His holy name. (Psalm 30:4 NKJ)

Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is no other; I am* God, and *there is none like Me*, (Isaiah 46:9 NKJ)

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent. (Revelation 2:5 NKJ)

3. Not remembering Christ's cross, and the redemption He purchased for us by His death is a particularly dangerous sin – They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy, (Psalms 78:42 NKJ)
Consider Psalm 78:42 in its context –

They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,

- A. *They did not remember they forgot –*
That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; (Psalm 78:7 NKJ)

And **forgot** His works and His wonders that He had shown them. (Psalm 78:11 NKJ)

- B. *Even when they did remember, they were far from perfect, their walk was dependent upon His grace and forgiveness -*

Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. (Ps. 78:35 NKJ)

Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue;³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.³⁸ But He, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and did not destroy *them*. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath;³⁹ For He remembered that they were *but* flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again. (Psalm 78:36-39 NKJ)

- C. *The context after Psalm 78:42 details the process of redemption from Egypt; the Psalmist details each of the ten plagues, he speaks of the crossing of the Red Sea and Pharaoh's drowning in it, plus God's mercies to them in the wilderness and after but still they forget and rebel against God and worship idols!*

- D. *Forgetting, not remembering God's mercy is a sad part of us, even when He is saving us -*

Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the sea-- the Red Sea. (Psalm 106:7 NKJ)

- E. *Yet when we are saved and safe, we tend to forget Who saved us, and what He saved us from –*

"So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,¹¹ "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant-- when you have eaten and are full--¹² " *then* beware, **lest you forget the LORD** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. (Deuteronomy 6:10-12 NKJ)

II. Because God's mercies, shown in Christ's dying for us, are too wonderful to forget –

... We will remember your love more than wine. (Song of Solomon 1:4 NKJ)

1. *The bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper are tokens of Christ's love for us –*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJ)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJ)

- A. *They are in remembrance of Him, as they were given to us by Him*

–
And **He took bread**, gave thanks and broke *it*, and **gave it to them**, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19 NKJ)

For I received **from the Lord** that which I also delivered to you: that **the Lord Jesus** on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread;²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is **My body** which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of **Me**."²⁵ In the same manner *He also took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in **My blood**. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of **Me**."²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim **the Lord's death** till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NKJ)

- B. *Notice the My body and My Blood and in remembrance of Me – the Lord's Supper is symbolic of our Lord's giving of Himself, even His all, His life for us*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

2. *These mercies should spur us to love for God, self-sacrifice and mind renewal –*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick