

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Forgetting

"Good to forgive; / Best to forget!" – Robert Browning

"We have all forgot more than we remember." – Thomas Fuller, M.D., *Gnomologia*, No. 5442

"Take without forgetting, and give without remembering." – Bryant H. McGill

"I've a grand memory for forgetting." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"Life cannot go on without much forgetting." – Honore de Balzac

Some of us, more than others, are plagued with the reoccurring problem of forgetfulness. We have seen humorous postings of people who go into rooms and can't remember why they went there? At times, being forgetful can be quite annoying.

It might surprise you that *forgetting* is not unknown in Scripture. The word "forgot" is used some 9 times, "forgotten" 45 times, "forget" 60 times, and "forgetting" 1 time. There are times that it signifies that one has forgotten something as it "slipped their mind," and there are times it is used with the idea of a self-imposed forgetfulness, such as when Paul wrote, "forgetting those which which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead" (Phil. 3:13).

One of the grave problems in Scripture was the repeated notation in Scripture that the children of Israel had forgotten God. "They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals, that your fathers did not fear. Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you" (Deut. 32:17-18). "They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt" (Psa. 106:21).

Because of man's tendency to be forgetful, it is very important that we, like the early church observe the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis (Acts 20:7). "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.' 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' (1 Cor. 11:24-25). We key in on the phrase used twice in these verses: "in remembrance of Me."

One of the areas sorely lacking today among God's children is the failure to memorize passages of Scripture. Sometimes it can be embarrassing when one not only has trouble remembering a passage, but even the book that it is found in. And even worse, "is that in the Old Testament or New Testament?"

One of the greatest ways to fight forgetfulness is to work at something repeatedly. Remember the old adage, "out of sight, out of mind."