



September 26, 2010

Forgetting To Not Forget

As Peter wrote his epistles, he reminded the saints to be mindful of certain things and adds, **“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”** (2 Pet 1.12). We often point out that the Bible is a book of remembrance and it takes some determination to keep things in our minds. This is the reason why we are to be assembling on a regular basis (Heb 10.24-25). Humans are forgetful beings, or rather, exercise selective remembrance for things that have personal meaning. This is brought out in the scriptures and perhaps one of the best examples of this is the story of Joseph and what he did for Egypt. The nation was preserved in a time of famine and as a result others, including the family of Jacob, were able to benefit from the food that was provided. When Joseph had died we are told that **“there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph”** (Ex 1.8) who was afraid the Children of Israel would ally themselves with their enemies and help to overthrow them. They were not willing to remember the good that Joseph had done for them but went to extremes to make their lives miserable. Saul forgot the instructions given to him by God to utterly destroy the Amalekites and did what he thought was right (1 Kings 15.9-23). As Samuel confronted Saul, the king excused his actions and attempted to explain how he had done what God had wanted him to even though it was clear that he had not. God commanded the Children that they were to bring judgment against these people because of what they had done as Israel travelled in the wilderness (Deut 25.16-19). We expect God to remember us and bless us, we expect him to forget the bad things that we have done, but, do we remember him. Humans have a way of trying to turn the tables on God by characterizing him as so loving and kind that in spite of pre-occupation with the world and indifference, God will save us and give us a place in Heaven. What folks fail to remember is that God sent his son into the world for the purpose of offering himself as a sacrifice and then allowed him to be murdered for no reason. Many folks, some of whom would describe themselves as Christians, want to go about their daily affairs with little or no thought for God forgetting that he has revealed his will to us and preserved that in the scriptures. We forget that there is a need to come to terms with what is written in the Bible and heed the commands that are there. Do we really think God will overlook and excuse our lack of interest in his word? By not spending time with the word of God we rob ourselves of critical information. Misconceptions abound due to this absence of knowledge. Can we really live in such a way that communicates that God’s word is not a priority in our lives. Can we set God aside and expect that he will excuse our ignorance? Over a period of time we might even forget that we have forgotten to remember God. There are commands and examples in the scriptures that we need to read (1 Tim 4.13), to study so that we understand what we have read (2 Tim 2.15) and develop the ability to teach others (Heb 5.12-14). By neglecting these things we also forget that others who called themselves God’s children fell into this trap and were not acceptably serving God, nor did they realize this. Hosea states, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”** (Hos 4.6). We may do this in other areas of our lives. We might remind ourselves to take care of something but over time as we don’t accomplish it we forget the reminders as well. Time passes and we think that all is well or a situation has gone away only to find that something is very wrong. In this case what can go wrong is that we can die or Christ can return and we will be found unprepared to stand before him in judgment.

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