

Mid-Week Devotion
Selective Memory...It's Biblical!



To FORGET!

Read Isaiah 44:21-23 Remember these things...

A while back, I forgot to do something and one of my daughters accused me of having selective memory, choosing what to forget and what to remember. Maybe you also have been accused of this at one time or another. Having selective memory is different than simply forgetting; it means making a conscience choice to forget, and although being accused of this is not usually meant as a compliment, it is at least a sound Biblical practice. It seems that in our busy world, forgetting is easier than remembering. However, there is one exception I have found to this and that is when it comes to our confessed sins.

In scripture, God uses the word remember over 230 times! He tells us to remember things like the Sabbath, His covenant, old times, His deeds, His Grace, His love, and even to remember God Himself! One of the last things Jesus said before His ascension was to go and make disciples, teaching them all I have commanded; this reasons therefore, that we are to remember all that He commanded.

The word forget however only shows up 63 times! Moreover, most of these times deal with not forgetting God; which is the same as saying to remember God. So in essence what we remember is by far more important to God than what we forget, unless of course we forget God. Yet, of all the things God commands us to remember, nowhere in scripture are we told to remember our confessed sins; those we are to forget. Yet for most of us, it is our failures, our regrets, and our quick temper that causes us to sin, that we have the hardest time forgetting. Why is it that our sins are so hard to forget? Perhaps it is because unlike our successes, our sins leave scars. These scars serve as constant reminders of the pain, suffering and heartache that our choices have caused in our lives and those of others. Once there, these scars can act like a prison, restricting our freedom. This is exactly why God wants us to forget them. Unless we do, we will always be enslaved to them and this will hinder our ability to remember God.

The best way to forget our confessed sins is to remember that God has already forgotten them. In fact, He has removed them as far as the East is from the West scripture tells us (Ps 103:12.) It's ironic that it is easier for us to forget the things that matter, like God's faithfulness and grace, then it is to let go of the things we should forget, like our confessed sins. One thing is certain however, and that is unless we learn to forget our sins, we will never be able to remember His love.

Mighty and loving God, help us with our selective memories so as to forget that which You have already forgotten; our transgressions, our failures, and our sins that we would remember that which is of eternal consequence, Your Love. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Have a great and blessed day, *Pastor Ed*