

# A TIME TO REMEMBER, A TIME TO FORGET

## Introduction

- 1) **Genesis 40:23** – “Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him”
  - a) Very sad situation, but, thankfully, it was a temporary forgetting (41:9f)
- 2) There are times we are to remember things, and times we are to forget things
  - a) Compare Ecclesiastes 3:6 (time to *keep*, time to *throw away*)
- 3) There are lessons to learn from Scripture as to remembering and forgetting

## I) **God Remembers**

- A) God remembered Noah during the flood (Gen. 8:1; 9:15)
- B) God remembers His people (Psa. 115:12; 103:13-14; Isa. 49:14-16; Lk. 12:6-7)
- C) God remembers His promises (Ex. 2:23-25; Lk. 1:68-75)
- D) God remembers our faithfulness (Psa. 56:8; Jer. 2:1-2; Heb. 6:10)
- E) God remembers our words and works (Matt. 12:35-37; 2 Cor. 5:10)

## II) **We Need to Remember**

- A) We need to remember God (Psa. 20:7; Eccl. 12:1; Jer. 2:32; Job 8:11-13)
- B) We need to remember the sacrificial death of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:24-26)
- C) We need to remember Jesus as the risen Christ (2 Tim. 2:8)
- D) We need to remember the word of truth of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:12)
- E) We need to remember those who are faithful and righteous (Prov. 10:7)

## III) **God Forgets**

- A) God forgets our sins that He has forgiven (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17)
  - 1) Forgiveness of our sins removes them from our account (Rom. 4:7-8)
  - 2) Justified and redeemed by the blood of Christ (Rom. 3:24-26)

## IV) **We Need to Forget**

- A) We need to forget those things which are behind (Phil. 3:13-14)
  - 1) Earthly qualifications and accomplishments (Phil. 3:4-7)
  - 2) Past sins that are forgiven (Titus 3:3)
  - 3) Past hurts and grievances (2 Tim. 4:16; Mk. 11:25)
- B) Repent and leave behind all unfaithfulness, and press on to spiritual growth, holiness, love, unity, and eternal life (1 Pet. 1:13-16)

## Conclusion

Even though the butler forgot Joseph and he languished in prison for two more years, God remembered Joseph and brought him to great success and prominence (Gen. 45:7-8). Let us understand what God remembers and forgets and be careful to remember and forget what we should as faithful Christians. There is a time to remember, and a time to forget.