

had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." That's what biblical remembering looks like. Actively, earnestly, deliberately reflecting on God and thinking carefully about what He's said and done. Rehearsing, recalling, and relishing His story and our role in it. Thanking Him, praising Him for rescuing us, and for giving us the gifts and opportunities we've had for success and service. Acknowledging who we are and whose we are. Remembering is deliberate attention. Forgetting doesn't take special effort. It just happens, it's our gravitational pull. If we don't attend to God's words and works we lose our delight in them. We lose our way, we lose perspective. We forget who we are and whose we are.

"We Begin to lose our way When we forget God"



If we forget the value of our heritage and the source of our blessings, it will become very easy for us to take for granted all that we have and all that we are. It will be very easy for us to begin believing that we can make our own way without God. With the blindness of pride we will very likely begin trusting in our own wisdom and power rather than

relying upon the guidance and might of our God. Then in our wrong-headed self-confidence we will lose our way. For this reason it is crucial that we REMEMBER. As Christians we are soldiers of the Cross. We are called to take up our cross and follow Him. We are the defenders of the faith. We represent the faith of our forefathers of this nation and the forefathers of our faith.

"To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Required"

Whether or not we wear the uniform of our country, we all have a service to offer, a service to those ideals that reflect God's universal truths and that our American ancestors captured in the formation of this country. When Jesus left this earth to take His place at the right hand of the Father, He left us, His bride, His church, to carry on His work. So when evil strikes in the form of a school shooting or when nature unleashes its fury and devastates property and lives, when children suffer, when people are hungry or homeless and ask "Where is God?!" we must be there and have them see Him in us. We must bring His comfort and His healing to this world. When we live lives of service to those around us, we honor the God Who saved us and we honor all those who gave that last full measure to secure for us all the things we enjoy in this nation. REMEMBER: "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48)

"Scientists Remember The Lord of Creation"



In the world of science there is no more prestigious institution than Cambridge University's Cavendish Laboratory, home to more than two centuries of Nobel Prize-winning research, including the discovery of the structure of DNA. Inscribed over its entrance are these words: "**The works of the Lord are great, sought out by all of them that have pleasure therein**"—Psalm 111:2 (KJV). The verse in Latin was carved in oak over the original entrance when the laboratory was established in 1874 by Cavendish Professor of Physics, James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879). Maxwell was known for numerous achievements in mathematical physics, including formulating the classical theory of electromagnetic radiation. He was also a committed follower of Jesus. When the Laboratory moved to its present site 100 years later, the inaugural verse again received star billing, now in English. If we're shocked at eminent scientists citing Scripture as the ground and inspiration of their work, it's because we've lost sight of how important biblical ideas

were to the foundations of Western intellectual life, including the origins of modern science in Europe. Prominent early scientist, Johannes Kepler, for example, spoke for many of his time when he described his work as "Thinking God's Thoughts After Him."

"Forgetting Who They Are And Whose They Are"



We can forget our own history. As a result, we won't fully understand the present and our role in it. To forget our story is to forget who we are and why we're here. No wonder remembering is such a central theme in Scripture.

God knows the gravitational pull of human awareness, which draws us inexorably toward forgetting. God's people are always in danger of losing their memory, forgetting who they are and whose they are.

"Moses Reminds Us To Remember"

The book of Deuteronomy records Moses's final address to the people he's led for decades. They're about to cross the Jordan and occupy the Promised Land—now without Moses' stable presence and leadership. No doubt he chooses his parting words very carefully. One theme dominates throughout: **Remember!**



JOSHUA 4:2-3

the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'



Remember Not To Forget.
Don't Forget To Remember.
Remember To Remember.

"Only be careful," Moses warns, "and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their

children after them." (Deuteronomy 4:9, my emphasis throughout) Moses anticipates that success will pose a particular temptation. "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be Careful That You Do Not Forget The LORD Your God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. . . . You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today." (Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 17-18) God's people's biggest danger is forgetting their story—who they are and whose they are.

In The Book of Deuteronomy Moses makes the memory connection explicit as he charges them; **to teach their children (4:9), proclaim their faith (6:4-9), observe the Sabbath (5:12-15), give thanks for their blessings (8:10), confess their sins (9:4-7), celebrate the Passover (16:1-3), tithe (26:1-11), and act with justice and compassion toward employees (15:12-15), immigrants and orphans (24:17-18), and the poor (24:19-22).** Doing these things reminds them of their story.

"Common Theme"

We've seen one common theme: Remember the LORD your God. Another theme looms large as well: Remember what God has done for you. **"Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."** (Deuteronomy 5:15) Remember who you are and whose you are. Your story

"Remembering Our Story"



These are the very things we need to remember as God's people today. Like our ancestors, we need to do so intentionally, deliberately, and regularly. But how do we do this? Organizing our lives around regular practices of memory is still profoundly helpful. Liturgical Christian traditions follow the Old Testament model of a church calendar built around key milestones in the Gospel story, such as Advent, Lent, and Passion Week. I have found this to be very helpful in keeping my Christian memory alive. But all Christians, liturgical or not, share at least one profound practice of memory, the Lord's Supper. "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My Body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19)

"Ponder Means More Than You May Think"

To delight in something requires stopping and noticing it; attending to it, treasuring it—as you would a photograph of your young child. Indeed, a good description of what you do with that photograph in your hand is to ponder it. Although **"Ponder"** can sound passive or abstract to us, the original Hebrew word is active, eager, and brimming with life. It means to seek out with care, to search after, to inquire, to examine, to interrogate. In Ezra 7:10: **"For Ezra**