

DOING GOOD: "Remind Yourself Often"

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Idea:** Doing good requires an **active memory**.
Philippians 3:1-2, 2 Peter 1:13-15, Jude 5; 1 John 2:7
- **Application:** Pastors and teachers should flee from the "lust for originality" (John Stott)

"If it's true, it's not new. If it's new, it's not true." (H.A. Ironside)

"I beg you to **change nothing** and to **avoid innovation**. . ." (John Calvin)

REMINDE YOURSELF OFTEN OF YOUR PRINCIPLES (TITUS 3:1-2)

- **Remind them** (3:1): present tense imperative – calls them to "remember often".
- **Gospel ethics** ought to shape our behavior toward the government and towards society.
 - Chapter 2 – deals with internal relationships of the church.
 - Chapter 3 – deals with external relationships with society and the world.

Crete was conquered by the Romans in 67 B.C. and was always close to boiling point in terms of agitation and political rebellion. The Cretans were being reminded that they need to submit to the government.

Principles to Remember (3:1-2):

1. **Submit Obediently** – "be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient"
2. **Help Gladly** – "to be ready for every good work,"
3. **Speak Kindly** – "to speak evil of no one"
4. **Live Peaceably** – "to avoid quarreling"
5. **Act Gently** – "to be gentle"
6. **Display Humility** – "and to show perfect courtesy toward all people."

REMINDE YOURSELF OFTEN OF YOUR PAST (TITUS 3:3-7)

- It's easy to become frustrated with unbelievers but when you remember your past you will be far more patient. "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10)

Aspects of Salvation (3:3-7):

1. **The Need of Salvation:** "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray,"
2. **The Source of Salvation:** "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy"
3. **The Means of Salvation:** "by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"
4. **The End of Salvation:** "so that. . . we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"

"Although my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior." (John Newton)

REMINDE YOURSELF OFTEN OF YOUR PRIORITY (TITUS 3:8)

- "be careful to devote themselves to **good works**." (v.8)

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can." (John Wesley)

Sermon Application Questions

August 25, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Why do you think that the theme of “Remembering” is so prominent in the Scriptures? What are some key truths that we often fail to remember?

Pastor Philip made this statement in the sermon: “Your greatest problem in your Christian life is not ignorance but forgetfulness.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

2

Pastor Philip said that when he goes back to Northern Ireland, he will go back to the old soccer stadiums and streets where he used to get in trouble as an unbeliever. He does this to try to connect with some of his unbelieving friends, but also to remind himself of who he was before Christ. When he does so he quotes 2 Samuel 7:18 – “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?”

What was your own life before you came to faith in Jesus Christ? How far has the Lord brought you in your walk with Him?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Deuteronomy 8:2

And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

1 Chronicles 16:12-13

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Israel his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

Psalms 77:11

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

Psalms 106:7

Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.

Luke 22:19

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

2 Peter 1:13-15

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Jude 5

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

2

Read Titus 3:1-8 carefully and slowly. Why does Paul shift his focus from internal relationships in the church (Titus chapter 2) to external relationships in society (Titus chapter 3)?

Why is it important for the church to understand **both** the internal relationships and external relationships taught in Titus 2-3? What happens when one focus is overemphasized to the neglect of the other?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

The Apostle Paul gave Titus a number of “Principles to Remember” in Titus 3:1-2. Evaluate your own life in light of these principles. How would you rate your character in light of these areas? Check “4” for strongest and “1” for weakest.

Tip: If you really want to grow in sanctification, have a loved one or a trusted spiritual leader evaluate you in these areas and compare that to your own evaluation.

“Principles to Remember”: Evaluation Worksheet					
1=poor 2=deficient 3=average 4=exemplary					
Principle	1	2	3	4	Comments
I have a submissive spirit to the rulers and authorities God has put over me.					
I have the attitude of a joyful helper and I am ready to take opportunities to do good works.					
I speak evil of no one but am known for my kind and gracious speech.					
I avoid quarreling with others and am known for my eagerness to cultivate and promote peace.					
I am known for my gentleness with others and am considerate in my dealings with others.					
I show “perfect courtesy” toward all people, even the people who I find difficult to deal with.					

2

Pastor Philip reminded us that “the citizen of heaven is to be a model citizen on earth.” Engaging in our community can take the form of praying for the welfare of our city, volunteering in the hospital, serving on the school board, coaching a little league team, working in law enforcement or serving in local government. How is God leading you to be a “force for good” in the community that you live in?

My Application: _____