

# Always Remember & Never Forget

*Sermon available on [Johnlongwell.com](http://Johnlongwell.com)*

What's the deadliest challenge facing Christians?

- Not praying.
- Not reading the Word.
- Struggles with sins?

None of the above.

- The deadly disease to our Christian walk
- so unregarded and Satanically subtle
- and highly successful is simply forgetting God.

American philosopher George Santayana stated: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Forgetting can be dangerous and deadly

- Some would invalidate the existence of real events
- Like holocaust deniers

We could never forget God

- But God's people forgot about Him in a generation (20 years).
- A king or a judge leads for 23 years
- Then the Jews did evil in the sight of God
- Turning to pagan gods, forgetting their own.

Moses repeatedly tells the people of Israel to Always Remember and Never Forget.

**Deut. 8:2** "And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you..."

**Deuteronomy 8:11-14** "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up (proud), and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,"

**Deuteronomy 8:19** "And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish."

**Easy recipe for forgetfulness is living well**

- Food in our tummy, roof over our head, cows in the garage, and gold in the bank.
- We become self-sufficient and proud.
- When we don't need, we don't seek

## How do we keep from forgetting God?

The Bible shows us physically how to remember God through monuments and memorials.

**Under Moses**, God's power and promise of deliverance from their Egyptian enemies was seen when the Red Sea was parted.

**Under Joshua**, God's power and promise of deliverance in conquering their enemies (the ites: Canaanites, Amorites, Jebusites, etc..) was seen when God parted the Jordan River.

**Joshua 4:1-3** When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, 3 and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'"

**Joshua 4:19-24** The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. 20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' 22 then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' 23 For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

Memorials help us remember because we are prone to forget.

- American memorials (Lincoln & 9/11 memorials) commemorate lives lost
- Bible monuments inspire & instruct the living to remember God's power and promises.
- The main living memorial Christian have today is the church

It would be easy to bookmark church until we can meet in person

- Two years later...
- Would we still be intact?
- Scattered?

**It's important that we gather, even in this setting.**

**Hebrews 10:23-25** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Gathering helps us to remember**

- Helps us hold fast
- We do this in love, because others see the real 'me'
- Stir up and encourage one another
  - To stir up literally means (to irritate or provoke): as
  - A provocation which literally jabs (cuts) someone so they "must" respond.
  - Like stepping on a nail or getting poked by a thorn.
- We do this in love, because others see the real 'me'

Can we talk truthfully today? Sometimes we don't want to go to church.

You've heard the sayings:

- "I have better things to do with my Sunday mornings."
- "I don't need to go to church to be close to God."
- "Why does God hate football?"

But, we begin to lose the battle when we brush off missing church as insignificant.

I'm not saying to deify a specific church

- Revive, SoulRio, Sagebrush or Calvary
- These gatherings are only significant because God and His people are present.
- Just don't despise the vehicle God has chosen to use (His church) to touch His people.

We need to recognize the feelings we have about church aren't rational.

- If we've truly had a life changing encounter with the God of the universe..
- Shouldn't that be the cause for a little motivation?
- Yet sometimes we barely have a few embers of enthusiasm.
- We need to see this for what it is (satanically strategic)

Instead we internalize it as a reflection of ourselves.

- "I must not really love Christ."
- "My faith in God must be weak."
- "I guess I'm no longer growing in the Lord."

Lie! Lie! Lie! How do I know?

- If the devil's lips are moving
- Then only lies are coming out.
- He's called the father of lies!

Think about this: If satan can dash our desire to go to church

- He will stop us from: "holding fast,
- Stirring one another up
- And encouraging each other

If we see this as a "flesh and blood issue, instead of a powers and principalities concern"

- Then we won't even show up to the battlefield on game day.

- We'll just sit there getting down on ourselves
- Until eventually we forget about God all together.

**But this is a powers and principalities concern!**

**Ephesians 6:12** concern: For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- We need to **Recognize** (the truth)
- We need to **Respond** accordingly
- **Reject** the enemy
- **Embrace** God's people and go to church.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**If the devil can't stop you going, he'll try to stop you growing.**

- Ever struggle to connect with a sermon
- Maybe your struggling right now

Satan strategically targets us when God's Word is shared

- Through distractions
- Interruptions
- Anything he can to keep us from grasping and growing

Prepare for each sermon in this way:

- **Revere** (God's Word)
- **Regard** (God's Vessel)
  - Whether you like or agree with them
  - God has chosen that vessel to use for that time
  - For the last 4 years (and for the next 4)
- **Ready** ourselves to **Receive** the **Revealed** Message
- Listen, don't just hear
  - We hear sounds (without trying), horns honking, dogs barking, planes flying.
  - To listen requires us to actively engage and pay attention.
  - This does not happen automatically, naturally or easily because...

It is another vulnerable strategic satanic target (**The going and the growing**)

A sign you've really listened

- When you can share or teach another.
- Moses big 3: Remember, Don't Forget & Teach

**Deuteronomy 11:18-19** You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are

sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Keep from forgetting & teach others through personal memorials

- Journal or blog
- Post to social media
- I record videos for personal & public use

Purpose to share these with others

- Revisit old memorials
- Share this with friends or family over dinner
- Encourage and stir one another up with these monuments

By teaching others:

- We eliminate the forgotten generation
- Perpetuate the promise of God's power
- And rightly align our hearts to worship God as we should.