



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Studies in Jude

Study 6: PUT THEM IN REMEMBRANCE

Text: Jude 1:5-7 “I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

In the above passage, Jude reminds believers of the dangers and consequences of sin from Historical events on backslidden Israelites, fallen Angels and immoral Sodom and Gomorrha as a means of alerting them to watchfulness that could prevent re-occurrence of these errors. Though these events happened thousands of years before Jude's time, Jude recognised that God has not changed, neither does His word and righteous demands – a fact we all need to recognise. Our lives and circumstances may change but we still have to deal with the unchanging demands of God if we are to please Him and make heaven. Our current study is focused on what we can learn from the good practice of Jude in putting the brethren in remembrance. This principle is well recognised in the secular. For example, it is generally accepted that History repeats itself whenever humanity fails to remember and apply the lessons of History; personal study and revision is seen as foundation to good academic success; lifelong learning, professional development, refresher courses, conferences, tests and re-examinations are considered essential to professional competency. Success at examinations, driving test, job interview, etc. depends on what a person remembers at the time rather merely on what s/he knows. Similarly, vehicles, aeroplanes and other machines are subjected to regular servicing to improve their longevity, serviceability and prevent accidents. A life that is not subject to similar spiritual exercises will be prone to spiritual accidents (backsliding, leanness, immaturity, etc.). This study focuses on the need to remind ourselves and others of spiritual truths so as to avoid spiritual casualties. We use alarms and calendars to remind ourselves of time and important events. We equally need spiritual 'alarms' and reminders to stay alive, strong and function aright.

Perils of the Slow to Remember

In this age of increase in knowledge, expansion of activities and interests, it is very easy to focus our attention on the immediate and urgent to the neglect of the prominent and important matters of life. Scriptures repeatedly show that when people are slow to remember (or quick to forget) what they should have remembered they paid dearly for it. In Psalms 106:13-15 we learn of the consequences of Israel soon forgetting the works of God leading to not waiting for His counsel resulting in lust that produced leanness in their souls. Similarly, a prophet remarked “**Because thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, but hast fretted me in all these things; behold, therefore I also will recompense thy way upon thine head, saith the Lord GOD: and thou shalt not commit this lewdness above all thine abominations**” (Ezekiel 16:43).

Principles from Scriptures

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

Human beings have a tendency of forgetting what they should remember and remembering what they should forget (Isaiah 43:18,26). Just like muscles, failure to exercise our memory will undermine its effectiveness to remember. To help His people along these lines, God put in place various memory joggers including:

1. Memorials such as the twelve stones from River Jordan (Joshua 4:7)
2. Holy Days and feasts e.g. Passover (Exodus 12:14; 20:8; Deuteronomy 16:3)
3. Phenomenon such as the rainbow (Genesis 9)
4. Ordinances such as water baptism and the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24-25).
5. Name changes such as Abraham, Sarah, Peter and Bethel.
6. Institutions such as synagogues and the church (Hebrews 10:25)
7. Written records such as Bible (Joshua 1:8)
8. Symbols such as fringes in garment (Numbers 15:38-40)
9. Gospel Ministers (I Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:6)
10. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)

The mark of a good and an effective minister of Christ is the ability to regularly put the brethren in remembrance of the things they had previously learnt or known (I Timothy 4:6) so that they can be nourished up in the words of God unto Spiritual maturity and be established in the truth (2 Peter 1:12,13,15; 3:1).

Precept for Saints

A number of precepts abound in the Bible that requires saints not only to remember, but also help others to remember. A few are:

1. Remember backslidden Israelites, fallen angels, immoral Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 1:5-7); and know that God has not changed nor upgraded His Word.
2. Remember Lot's wife (Luke 17:32) and note that grace is not a license for sin. Therefore prepare for the rapture or face the consequences.
3. Remember our Spiritual heritage, past victories and deliverances and in gratitude, hold fast our confidence in God for future victories, with diligence to the end (2 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 10:31-35; Deuteronomy 7:18; 8:2; Nehemiah 4:14)
4. Remember what made us to stumble and avoid a repeat by watchfulness and holding fast to the truth (Revelation 2:5; 3:3).
5. Remember God in the days of youthful years and avoid the dangers of missing valuable opportunities nor wait till it becomes too late (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
6. Remember the words of God (Malachi 4:4; Jude 1:17).
7. Remind others of the truth so that they can avoid errors (2 Timothy 2:14).
8. Remember God in the time of trouble so He can deliver us (Jonah 2:7).
9. Remember God's past goodness and faithfulness and let it inspire faith for victory in future challenges (Deuteronomy 8:18; 32:7).
10. Remember God's holiness and let it stir us up to praise (Psalms 30:4; 97:12)

In these end times, it is incumbent on all believers to use every divine **provisions for sustenance** to ensure s/he remembers, stays afresh, be established in true righteousness and be ready for the rapture. These include (but not limited to):

1. Regular personal Bible reading and prayers
2. Regular attendance of Church services and programmes
3. Use of modern technology to stay spiritually fresh such as audio, videos, mobile devices with electronic Bible and other resources.
4. Reading.