

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted September 6, 2020

T I T L E: FORGETTING TO REMEMBER

T E X T: Deuteronomy 8:1-11

It is the nature of man, probably because of the fall of man, to forget God when life is good. One source I read this week said, "When our hands are full it is easy to forget what we learned when our hands were empty."

I. MANKIND TENDS TO FORGET THAT ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, INDEED ACCORDING TO CHRIST, MAN CANNOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. V. 3

"...man shall not live on bread alone..."

A. ...is a truth statement about life being more than simply physical existence.

¹ It means that materialism, although a necessity to a certain degree, will not satisfy.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 ---- He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.

Proverbs 10:22 ---- It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.

² It also speaks to the sin of envy.

Psalms 49:16–17 ---- 16 Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases; 17 for he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendor will not descend with him.

³ It also speaks to the truth that true riches are of a spiritual nature rather than material.

Matthew 16:26–27 ---- 26 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

- B. ...should be a reminder to mankind in general and to Christians in particular that man is a physical and spiritual being with the spiritual being the predominant life reality, thus we must not neglect spiritual nourishment if we expect to persevere in this life as the Lord expects.

In this context the advice is “don’t neglect the word of God.”

Proverbs 16:20 ---- He who gives attention to the word will find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 ---- 6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

“understand” verse 3 — God "knows" in the sense of having information or facts about reality ahead of the actual occurrence. He is aware of the way things are and are going to be.

- C. ...is a reality of life Christians often acknowledge without disciplined application.

A third of Americans who attend a Protestant church regularly (32%) say they read the Bible personally every day. Around a quarter (27%) say they read it a few times a week. Fewer say

they only read it once a week (12%), a few times a month (11%) or once a month (5%). Close to 1 in 8 (12%) admit they rarely or never read the Bible. (Facts & Trends)

II. MANKIND TENDS TO FORGET THAT WHEN LIFE IS GOOD THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF BECOMING ARROGANTLY SELF-SUFFICIENT.... V.14

- A. ... because it is the tendency of man to forget the Lord and become prideful when life is good, taking full credit for the successes and abundance in life even when the source of the good life is God Himself.

Deuteronomy 8:18 ---- "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

The existence, provision and protection of the nation of Israel in the wilderness depended upon the kindness and graciousness of the Lord.

When we forget the Lord we tend to think we know what's best for ourselves, we don't. The Lord told Israel not to forget His commands.

Psalms 147:10–11 ---- 10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man. 11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

Proverbs 21:31 ---- The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the LORD.

- B. ...because arrogant self-sufficiency is easily disguised as a matter of the tongue when in reality it is a matter of the heart.

Deuteronomy 8:17 ---- "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'

Commentary: You may still go through the motions of worshiping God and thanking Him in public, but "to yourself" you offer congratulations. You studied while others were playing, you worked while others were sleeping, you were shrewd while others were dumb, etc., etc. Outwardly, you may go through the motions of praising God, but inwardly you congratulate yourself. Your energy and your ability did it. God fades and disappears. Instead of "How Great Thou Art" you hum inwardly "How Great I Am."

Conclusion: The remedy for forgetting to remember is to visit the past and remember that ultimately, it is the Lord who provides, protects and sustains our life.