

REMEMBER
MARCH 26, 2017

ECCLESIASTIES 12:1

1. In our country we celebrate certain events to insure that we don't forget important things:
 - A. Mother's and Father's day – To honor our parents.
 - B. Memorial Day – To honor those who gave their lives.
 - C. 4th of July – Independence comes with a price.
 - D. Veterans Day – To honor those who served and survived.
 - These celebrations help us remember important events and people.

2. God instituted certain memorials to help His people remember their past and to better equip them for their future.
 - A. Passover reminds them of God's deliverance. **EXODUS 12:14**
 - **PSALMS 78:40-43** – One can go through the motions but not be impacted by the meaning. They forgot and limited God.
 - B. Manna in the Ark reminded them of God's provision. **EXODUS 16:32 (NLT)**
 - C. Monument of rocks reminded them of God's power and faithfulness.
JOSHUA 4:5-7 (NLT)
 - At the flood stage the Jordan can be 1 mile wide and 150 feet deep. They crossed on dry land.
 - D. The Lords' supper reminds us of love and sacrifice. **LUKE 22:19**

3. Not remembering is dangerous. **DEUTERONOMY 6:10-12 (NLT)**
 - A. Need can drive us to God, but prosperity can move us away from God.
NEHEMIAH 9:24-28
 - B. When they remembered their God, He delivered them.

4. Peter understood the importance of remembering.
 - A. **2 PETER 1:12-14 (NLT)** – Peter reminded them of things they knew, to stimulate them to wholesome thinking, to challenge them to live upright before the Lord.
 - B. Remember:
 - When mocked for your belief - **2 PETER 3:1**
 - When we feel like giving up – **2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18**
 - When suffering adversity – **2 TIMOTHY 1:12**
 - When tempted to look back – **DEUTERONOMY 32:7**, and Lot's wife.
 - When we think God doesn't love us – **JOHN 15:13**
 - When sickness attacks – **1 PETER 2:24, PSALMS 103:2-3**
 - When feeling empty and dry – **JOHN 7:37-38**
 - When tempted not to forgive – **EPHESIANS 4:32**
 - C. When tempted to retreat, we must remember who we are.
 - King Richard the Lion Heart "Remember who you are!"
 - **ROMANS 8:37** – In the midst of life's challenges and battles it's easy to forget who we are. It's easy to retreat and accept defeat. It's easy to be pessimistic, negative, and full of gloom. But God says "remember who you are." You are the blood washed church of the redeemed, you are the sons of the most high, you are ambassadors for Christ and more than conquerors through Him that loves you.

CONCLUSION: If defeat is staring us in the face, our God wants us to refuse to accept it, stop our retreat, and sound the note of "advance and conquer."