

# ***THE GUIDELINE***

*Psalms 31:3*

## **REMEMBER ME**

I suppose every person on the earth wants to be remembered in one way or another. A good father and mother want to be remembered by their children. A good worker wants to be remembered by his employer. A good doctor wants to be remembered for his life-saving accomplishments. On and on we could go with a list of people from all walks of life who want to be remembered. Here are a few quotes concerning how some want to be remembered:

“Live the way you want to be remembered.”

“Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered.”

“Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.”

“I hope people remember me as a good and decent man. And if they do, then that is success.”

“If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honor for me.”

“I am a kind person, I am kind to everyone, but if you are unkind to me, then kindness is not what you will remember me for.”

From teachers to preachers, and from the famous to the “regular joe,” we desire to be remembered in some way.

It is a terrible feeling to think you have been or will be forgotten, but the fact of the matter is we have all been forgotten at some point in one way or another. Job, in his pitiable plight, said, *“My kinsfolk have failed, And my familiar friends have forgotten me.”* (Job 19:14) In Genesis forty we have the classic story of Joseph, the baker, and the butler in prison. Joseph interpreted the dreams of the two which revealed their release. Joseph made a request to the butler who was soon to be released, *“But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house.”* (Genesis 40:14) In that same chapter we are informed, *“Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.”* (Genesis 40:23) Think of how terrible it must have been for Joseph sitting in that prison knowing the butler had forsaken him. Oh, how quickly one forgets! What a terrible thought to be forgotten by our friends and family in times of crisis, but we know it happens over and over again.

We have several examples of men asking God to remember them. In Judges the great and mighty Samson, who was reduced to a blind weakling, called on God to remember him, *“And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.”* (Judges 16:28) Hannah asked God to remember her, *“And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.”* (1 Samuel 1:11) Nehemiah asked God to remember him concerning the good work he had accomplished in restoring the temple, and he also asked that God would remember those that helped. (Nehemiah 13:14, 22 29, 31) David pleaded with the Lord to, *“Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;”* (Psalm 106:4)

To forget something or someone would show weakness. God has infinite knowledge and is omnipresent so it is impossible for him to forget. God's remembrance and God's forgetting are two different things. Our all powerful Heavenly Father can **choose** not to remember our sins, *"And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: For they shall all know me, From the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: For I will forgive their iniquity, And I will remember their sin no more."* (Jeremiah 31:34) Also we read, *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, That she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, Yet will I not forget thee."* (Isaiah 49:15)

So how is it that we reconcile these verses? The real point that we can learn from these "remember me" passages is highlighting man's weakness. We surely forget that God promises that he will never leave or forsake us, hence, "Lord, remember me." When the Bible says God remembered Noah, the fact of the matter is he never had forgotten him in the first place, but what is being taught is the concept that God kept his promise to the faithful servant.

When judgment day comes and God sends Jesus back to gather the saints he will recognize and remember those who have lived by faith and we will hear these words, *".....Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"* (Matthew 25:34) When Jesus was about to die on the cross one of the thieves pleaded with him, *"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."* (Luke 23:42) Jesus then replied, *"..... Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."* (Luke 23:43). We can be most confident that our Lord will remember his obedient servants in the great judgment day. He will welcome the faithful and deny the ungodly. You see God always knows and remembers.†

James Cossey



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