

Some Things Christians Should Remember

No. 72

Introduction.

- I. One of the greatest blessings of life is the ability to remember. God has given us the power to remember vast amounts of knowledge. It is said that **James A. Farley** could call 100,000 people by name. Others have memorized most or all of the New Testament. Others have developed their memories to the extent that they remember almost everything they see and hear. It is a shame that most of us use only a small percentage of our minds. We have billions of wasted cells.
- II. Today I would like to speak on "Some Things Christians Should Remember." There are some things we should always remember.

I. **Brother's Keeper** - We should remember that we are our brother's keeper.

A. In the fourth chapter of the book of Genesis we learn that Cain murdered his brother, Abel, because God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with his sacrifice. God asked, "Where is Abel thy brother?" Cain tried to evade the question by saying, "I know not: am I my brother's keeper?" He wanted to leave the impression that his brother's welfare was of no concern to him, but God teaches that he was his brother's keeper and we are our brother's keeper today.

B. Someone might ask, "**Who is my brother?**" Who is the object of my concern?

1. Jesus answered these questions in Luke 10:25-37.

LUK 10:25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" 27 And he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. 31 "And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 "And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 "But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 "And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' 36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

2. Jesus stressed in this parable we are to do good to all men. It is not enough just to help our friends. Even the worse of men do good to their friends. Whoever is in need, friend or foe, is our brother.

3. We are to help both Christians and non-Christians. (Gal. 6:10).

C. Someone might now ask, **“In what sense am I my brother’s keeper?”**

1. We are not to be our brother’s keeper by **meddling in his private affairs**. (1 Pet. 4:15).

2. Neither are we his keeper **when we gossip** about him and try to destroy him.

3. We are our brother’s keeper in the sense that **we are to seek his good**. (1 Cor. 10:24).

a. We must be concerned about the **physical welfare** of others. It is a sin to let my brother starve while I feast. One-half of the world’s population will go to bed tonight with their stomach gnawing from lack of food. (Eph. 4:28; 1 Jn. 3:17).

b. We must be concerned about the **spiritual welfare** of others.

1) If our brother **has not been taught**, it is our responsibility to teach him.

2) If our brother **neglects the worship**, we must go and see him and find out what is wrong.

3) If our brother is **overtaken in a trespass**, we must try to restore him. (Gal. 6:1,2).

4) If our brother **is weak**, we must do nothing that would cause him to stumble. (1 Cor. 10:32).

5) If our brother **needs encouragement**, we should encourage him. (Heb. 3:13).

a) **A soldier was once wounded in battle**. When the other men saw he was wounded, they gathered around so close that he couldn’t fall. That’s real brotherhood.

b) **Many of our comrades on the road to life are wounded**. We must not let them down. We must not forsake them. They need our help. Let’s gather around them and hold them up until they can regain their strength.

II. **Coupled To Christ** - We should remember that we must be coupled to Christ to be saved.

A. **Once two travelers**, who thought they were able to take care of themselves, entered a railway car and found a seat. The porter looked in and asked them to go forward. They asked, “What is the matter with this coach?” With a grin he replied, “Nothing: only it ain’t coupled to anything that will take you anywhere.”

B. **That is the trouble with some in the church**. They sit there and look nice. But they are not going to heaven because they are not coupled to Christ. “Churchanity” but no Christianity.

1. **That reminds me of a habit of some Indians**. It is the habit of some Indians to say “yes” to everything they are asked to do. This leads to confusion as to when an Indian means “yes” and when he means “no.”

2. **At an Indian convention in 1952** the question was brought up on the floor of the assembly, “When does an Indian mean ‘no’?” An elderly Indian arose and in a deep voice stated, “It is plain when Indian mean no. When Indian say yes and do nothing, then Indian mean no.

3. It occurs to me that the Indian is not the only person plagued with the problem of speaking with a “forked tongue.” Many alleged Christians have the same problem. They insist that they have said “yes” to God and have committed their lives to him, but they do nothing to demonstrate their commitment. They manifest that they have really said “yes” to God and are not coupled to Jesus. The one who is joined to Christ has religion in his hands and feet. He is a doer of the word.

III. **Change Our Minds If They Are Wrong** - We should remember to change our minds if we are wrong.

- A. **Some people will never admit they are wrong about anything.** This is utter folly. To admit we are wrong is a sign of humility and wisdom. It proves we are wiser today than were yesterday.
- B. To confess wrong is to admit one’s humanity.
 1. Never to admit a wrong is to pose as divine.
 2. Only the Divine One never sins.

IV. **Our Position** - We should remember our position.

- A. We are children of the God of heaven. We are heirs of God’s great salvation.
- B. **Some time ago a missionary was preaching in India.** At the most interesting part of his sermon a woman left the building, stayed away several minutes, and then returned. After the service she told the missionary why she had left. She said, “I was so interested in what you were saying that I wondered whether or not you lived out these teaching in your everyday life. I went and asked your carriage driver about it. He said that you lived just as you talked. I was glad to come back and listen to you again.”
- C. Yes, the missionary remembered his position and lived up to it. The world will never listen to us unless we live up to our high position as children of God.

V. **A Man May be Down, But He Can Bounce Back** - We should remember that a man may be down, but he can bounce back.

- A. **Simon Peter** is a classic example of this fact. He denied the Lord three times. When he realized what had done he wept and must have thought that it was all over. He was down, but he didn’t take the full count. He accepted Christ’s forgiveness and bounced back and became a great servant of Christ.
- B. **On New Year’s Day of 1928 California played Georgia Tech in the Rose Bowl game.** The ball was fumbled by Georgia Tech and there was a scramble for the ball. In the scramble one of the California’s players scooped up the ball and lost his sense of direction and started running toward Tech’s goal line. One of his comrades tackled him just before he made a touchdown for the opposing team. He was saddened and humiliated by this dreadful experience. During the half he sat in the corner of the dressing room weeping and crying out that he didn’t want to live. But his coach, Nibs Price, said to him. “Roy, the game is just one-half over. I want you to go back in there and give it your best.” Roy never forgot those words.
- C. **We also make mistakes.** We often run the wrong way, but the Great God gives us another chance. The devil does get us down; he gets his feet on our neck, but we don’t have to stay down. We can reach out a hand to Jesus and He will help us up and give us a new start.

VI. **Christian Life Is A Growth** - We should remember that the Christian life is a life of growth.

- A. Christians are to grow continually in the grace and knowledge of God. (1 Pet. 3:18).
- B. It is tragic that some people have been a member of the church for many years and have grown mentally and financially, but they haven't grown an inch spiritually. They do not know any more Bible than they did 10 years ago. They do not give more, serve more, pray more and are no more interested in His work.
- C. **Thank God for those who can say**, "I am not what I ought to be, I am not all I am going to be, but I am not what I used to be. I have grown in the grace and knowledge of God."

VII. **World Not Our Home** - We should remember that the world is not our home.

- A. This world is only our temporary dwelling place. This being so it is foolish to pile up material wealth and act as if we are going to live here forever.
- B. **Addison**, in one of his essays, tells of a traveler who went one night into a king's palace. Thinking it was an inn, he laid down on the soft carpet and went to sleep. The guard found him there and brought him before the king. The king asked, "How could you be so stupid as to think that this palace was an inn?" And the man said, "Let me ask you a question. Who lived here in this house when it was built?" The king answered, "My ancestors." The man then asked, "And who lived here before you?" "My father." Then the man asked, "Who will live here after you?" And the king answered, "My son, the prince." The man said, "Ah, sir, a place that changes inhabitants so often is not a palace, it is an inn." How true it is. The Bible tells us to make the best of life yet it reminds us that this world is not our home. We are just passing through on the way to eternity.

Conclusion.

- I. **Years ago in a small Indiana town a man made a balloon ascension.** The basket in which he ascended was attached to the balloon with three ropes. as the man soared up into the air, the people saw him cut one of the ropes. They shouted for him not to cut the second rope, but in a moment they saw him cut that rope. "Don't cut the last rope," They shouted, but in a moment he cut the last rope and plunged to the earth. This was his way of suicide.
- II. **Every time someone turns Christ down, he is cutting one of the ropes.** Some day without knowing it he will cut the last rope. His last opportunity will be gone and he will go down to hell where there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. There is great danger in delay. Come and surrender your life to Jesus. He will bless and save you. Remember tomorrow it may be too late. Come as we sing the song of invitation.