

Remember What You Are After

Eph 2:10-13

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

I. Introduction

1. Have you ever been in a room and had an idea come to your mind, like “Oh, I need to go get this from another room?”

2. While you are in the room in the circumstances with your mind focused on the situation and the task at hand, you are very clear about what you need and where you need to go to get it.
3. But once you get out of that situation, your mind can be refocused on other things. You may arrive in that other room and suddenly your mind draws a blank. “What did I come in her for?”
4. I know how I do things. I’ll get in that other room and will sometimes totally forgot that I went into that room to retrieve something, but something else catches my eye and I get busy on that new thing.
5. But if my memory is at least half working, I’ll walk in there as if pushed ahead by some blind force, knowing I went in there to get something, but the something has left my mind.

6. I stand still in the room and look all around hoping something will jog my memory about what it was I was after.
7. And then when that fails, I'll return to where I had just come from. And seeing the lay of things in that room, often my memory will recall what it was I was after.
8. And I've also done this. This second time, my mind has produced the "what I'm after," but if I am not careful, I'll go into that other room a second time where the whatever is, and I'll have forgotten what I was after again.
9. So in going back to that first room for a third time, I recall again what I was after.
10. Then to help me not forget, I'll begin saying that thing out loud that I am after until I arrive in the room with that item, and so the third time, I am able to find what I was after.
11. One guy put it this way to a friend, "Do you ever think of the hereafter?"

12. His witty friend answered: “Yes, every time I walk into a room I wonder what I was here after.”

- II. Remember where we came from
 1. It has occurred to me that it is possible for us to forget the goal God has called us to.
 2. We forget what we were after.
 3. We are not where we were, we have definitely left that place, but we are not where we need to be either.
 4. It might be that there have just been an accumulation of life’s troubles and distractions, or maybe even some pleasurable distractions, but whatever they are, they are just distractions.
 5. And sometimes we can’t get the focus on the thing God has called us to until we go back, either physically, or at least mentally, and remember where we were when God called us out.

6. Paul told the Ephesians something they needed to remember:

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*11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in **time past Gentiles** in the flesh, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the **Circumcision in the flesh made by hands**;
*12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God** [and] **in the world**:**

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

7. Do you remember when you lived after the flesh? Like a foreigner from God's people

and even an outsider with no hope without God?

III. Remember the directions

1. Sometimes it is just necessary to remember where you were to recall where you are going. And don't forget the direction you are headed.
2. It was Jesus Christ Himself who wrote to the same church in Ephesus in the Book of Revelation:
Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
3. If you need some help as to where you should be going and the direction you are headed, think for a moment where you used to be headed when you were walking so deeply in sin.

4. Hopelessness without God is a very sad place indeed.
5. And how many of our loved ones and friends are still in that situation?
6. But it is easy to forget how desperate we felt when we were living in that sin.
7. And now, that you have come so far from that place, it is easy to get comfortable with our condition saying, "At least I'm not as bad as I used to be."
8. But what did Jesus tell the Ephesians? Remember from whence you have fallen and do the first works. The things that you used to have as a goal when you first got started in serving the Lord.
9. How many big plans did I have to read the Word, teach His word, grow in godliness, getting rid of the things of the world.
10. If we are not careful, we will slip ever so gradually back into some of the old habits.
11. Remember what you were after when you started after God.

12. Go back and feel the burn of hell fire that was tormenting you to remind you why you left that life.

IV. Remember the call

1. As Paul wrote, if we faint not, we have a ministry before us to accomplish:

2 Cor 4:1-7

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

*2 But have **renounced** the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

There is a blinding that can happen in our zones of comfort. We should know, once I was blind, but now I see. Don't put on the blinders again:

*4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2. Let the light shine once again to remember what you are after:

*6 For God, who **commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts**, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

3. Listen, you are a treasure filled with a treasure in search of other treasures. You were chosen, you were called out of darkness:

1 Peter 2:9-11

*9 But ye are a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy** nation, a **peculiar** people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called** you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

*10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but **now have obtained mercy.***

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

4. Yes there are some things I need to get away from. They are distractions.
5. I am God's treasure. I am God's chosen.
6. I am called, chosen and holy so I will not pollute my life with fleshly lusts that do nothing but war against my soul!
7. Pursue and obtain God's mercy.
- v. Conclusion: To the church of Sardis

1. To remember what we are after, it is important to remember what we have been given.
2. How clearly I remember the importance the grace of God was at leading me into the church:

Rev 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

3. Remember that you received guidance from someone who invited you.
4. Remember you had a witness in your spirit that you needed to go where God was leading you.
5. Remember those who laughed at you for trying, but you knew you needed to give your life to God.
6. And remember the mercy He gave you. Remember the grace that drew you.

7. You see, when you return to the room where you first had the vision of the thing you were after, you can rekindle that light that will begin to glow again.
8. Then, remember what you have received and heard and hold it fast!
9. And Jesus said, while you remember that, repent for forgetting what you received.
10. So why is it important to remember what you were after? Because how many others are after the same thing as you.
11. In the past two weeks, I've had three of our CIP students tell me that they wanted keep working with CIP, helping and teaching others, because they wanted to give help to those who had gotten into the same mess they had gotten into.
12. And in their words, who else will someone in that shape listen to, than someone who had been through exactly what they are going through and found their way out?

13. You see, that is why it is important to remember what you are after. Get a grip on your calling.
14. Get busy not just talking about it and thinking about it, but wake up to the possibility that God has been trying to use you.
15. Yes, and if you remember right, back when you were in that old life, you got a distant vision that somehow God would use you.
16. You thought that all the stuff you had gone through could and should be in a book that others can read to help them find their way out.
17. So whether you write that book, or whether you just tell your story to one person at a time until God opens doors for you to tell it to crowds, just remember what you are after.