



The Bible Banner

March 2016



Remember

After stopping for gas, a man drove more than 5 hours before noticing something, or rather someone, was missing. What's worse is that someone was his wife. The man had forgotten his wife. Stopping in the next town he asked the police to help him get in touch with his wife. When the man called her to inform her that he was on his way back, he admitted with great embarrassment that he just hadn't noticed that she was absent.

Although we might not understand how the man could not realize his wife was not in the car with him for those five hours; do many of us carry out a similar action? How many times have you forgotten your morning worship time with God, or forgotten that He is a constant observer of all you do and say, and have done or said things you wouldn't have if He was visibly there? Isn't forgetting God worse than forgetting a physical family member?

African Bean Burgers

4 Heaping Tbsp Flaxseed, ground ¼-1/3 cup water
Mix together and allow to gel. Then add:
2 Tbsp arrowroot powder 1 Tbsp oil
¾ c. mashed black-eyed peas
¼ tsp pero (coffee replacement)
½ tsp onion powder 3 cloves garlic, chopped fine
1 tsp salt ¾ cup whole wheat flour
Mix together. Form into patties and fry on oiled skillet.



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QUOTABLE QUOTES

*We have nothing to fear for the future,
except as we shall **forget**
the way the Lord has led us,
and His teaching in our past history.*

—Ye Shall Receive Power p. 229

WITHOUT EXCUSE

“But, I forgot.” How many of us have heard this excuse repeated from the lips of our children? One of my favorite Bible study techniques is to follow words of command throughout the Bible to find out what is especially important to God. For example, what did He say to “beware” of or to “take heed” of? One thing that I have noticed is that people have a tendency to forget the very things that Jesus said to “remember”. Yet in Deut. 9:7 the Bible even defines the word by saying, *“Remember, and forget not...”* During Jesus’ lifetime here on earth, I found only two instances where He uses the word “remember” in the form of a command. One of these is John 15:20, reminding us that if we follow Jesus we can expect persecution, *“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”*

The other one is listed among counsels for the last days in Luke 17:32, *“Remember Lot’s wife.”* Oh, how much is conveyed in this short pointed sentence. The statement is found in the context of Luke 17:28-32. *“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot’s wife.”* This, of course, is a reference back to Genesis 19:26, *“But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”* The obvious surface truth of this statement is that we should take heed that we don’t become so absorbed in the things of this world that we disobey a plain “Thus saith the Lord.” For Genesis 19:17 tells us that the angel gave specific instructions, *“And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”* It appears that Lot or his family were actually scared of the hardships of wilderness living, for he says he *“cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:”* (Vs. 19) and asks instead to go to a nearby city that apparently was still corrupt enough that God had been planning to destroy it, saying, *“Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”* (Vs. 20) The sad end of the story is that Lot’s entire family ended up either dead or horribly corrupted by the time they spent living in the city of Sodom. (Gen.19:30-38) And of course, his wife became a pillar of salt.

Perhaps we should look a little deeper and see what led up to this fatal “turn” of events, for sin is seldom a one step process, but rather a pattern of bad decisions and compromise with evil. In Genesis 13 we are told about how the flocks and herds of Lot and Abraham had gotten too large and so they had to part company. Abraham allowed Lot to have first choice of which area to live in. And the Bible records, *“Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly...Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.”* (Genesis 13:12, 13, 18) The difference in the course of Abraham and Lot is here simply contrasted. Abraham’s first thoughts were for the worship of God, while Lot chose the city as a place of residence because he looked more to the temporal advantages he would gain than to the moral influences that would surround himself and his family. In the end, he gained neither, for even his possessions were destroyed. Nevertheless, consenting to dwell in the city and pitch his tent toward Sodom was perhaps the first step in the wrong direction.



The second step of compromise followed accordingly. Although Lot himself was *“vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)”* (2 Peter 2:7, 8), apparently at least portions of Lot’s family became somewhat

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when he made his
home in Sodom

desensitized to the city’s evils and urged him to move there because by the next chapter, instead of just pitching his tent toward Sodom, Lot *“dwelt in Sodom.”* (Gen. 14:12) Lot chose Sodom for its pleasure and profit, without due consideration of the effects that daily beholding its wickedness would have on his family. The Bible lists the sins of Sodom as

“pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness... they were haughty, and committed abomination” as well as *“giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh”* (Ezekiel 16:49, 50; Jude 7) As evidenced by the end of the story, the men of Sodom were not content just to be corrupt themselves, they wanted to corrupt everyone else too. Whether Lot used missionary effort as an excuse to live in Sodom or he simply compromised with sin in order to keep someone in his family (perhaps his wife?) happy, it is evident that Lot had too much of a lingering/compromising spirit, for Genesis 19:16 tells us, *“And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.”* The angels had to physically pull him and his family out of Sodom. Again, whether Lot chose to live in Sodom because he compromised to make his wife happy, or as a missionary effort, neither of these was successful. (The cities are to be worked from outposts, not by dwelling in them.) By the end, there were not even 10 righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:32) and Lot lost even his family that he had taken into the city.

We can see that Lot made a mistake when he made his home in Sodom, a wicked city. Here he lost not only all his possessions; he lost his wife and all but two of his children. He learned his lesson too late. (Gen. 19:30) This is a lesson that we should take to heart. There may be very flattering openings in the city for the children of God, but they must look on every side of the question before deciding. The very first question with every one of us should be *“How will it be with my soul?”* Few realize the importance of shunning, so far as possible, all associations unfriendly to religious life. In choosing their surroundings, few make their spiritual prosperity the first consideration. But today, the same voice that warned Lot to leave Sodom bids us, *“Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean.”* (2 Cor.6:17) Those who obey this warning will find a refuge. Let every man be wide awake for himself, and try to save his family. Because like Sodom, cities the world over are becoming hotbeds of vice. On every hand are the sights and sounds of evil. Everywhere are enticements to sensuality and dissipation. The tide of corruption and crime is continually swelling. Every day brings the record of violence --robberies, murders, suicides, and crimes unnamable. Perhaps country living should be a first step if we *“Remember Lot’s wife ”* for since God said *“remember”* we are without excuse.

FORGOTTEN

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;” Ecclesiastes 12:1

A man and his wife were given a \$100 certificate to a very nice restaurant. They found a free evening, dressed up and even washed and waxed the car.

The night came, and they were very excited. They went to the restaurant and were given a nice, candlelit table overlooking a lagoon near to a moonlit Hawaiian bay. Oh, it was nice. And because it was just the man and his wife and they had \$100, they ordered the most expensive thing the restaurant had.

When the time came to pay for their meal the man said to his wife, “Honey, why don’t you give me the certificate.”

She replied, “I don’t have the certificate. I thought you brought it.”

“You have to have it. You’re supposed to have it. You’re the wife!”



"I don't have it."

Despite the fact that the man and his wife looked rich and acted rich, they had forgotten the most important thing, the certificate that would pay their bill.

Too many youth make the same mistake. They forget the most important thing in life. They forget their Creator, the God who formed them before they were born. They forget their Redeemer, the Man who died to save them from sin. How many of us forget to talk to God every day? How many forget to consult Him through His Word about what they should eat, watch, wear, or listen to? Why don't you insure that you REMEMBER your Creator today, tomorrow, and every day of your life?

Kids' Corner

Written by D. Roberts age 12 Illustrated by D. Roberts age 11

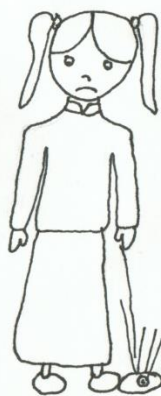
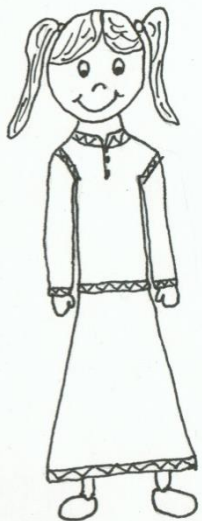
GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

The Elephant, the animal that never forgets, lives in Africa and Asia. The African Elephant is known to reach sizes up to 13-16 feet long, weigh up to 3 7/8 – 6 7/8 tons and have large ears, while the Asian Elephant reaches sizes up to 11 feet, weighs 2-4 7/8 tons and has smaller ears. There is a story of a kind vegetable woman in a city of India who gave a bunch of greens every day to an elephant that passed by her stand. But one day the elephant's master treated him very cruelly, and the elephant became angry and tore through the streets. The people ran right and left to get away from the furious beast; even the vegetable woman had to run. In her fright she forgot her little baby. But the elephant, even in his fury, remembered the woman's kindness, and lifted the baby up with his trunk to a place of safety and continued on his stampede. Jesus does the same with us, when Satan is coming to harm us; Jesus lifts us up in His arms to a place of safety.



By: Tontan Travel Link: www.tontantravel.com/

Patience read in her Bible that God said to "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy" and "the seventh day is the sabbath." All week she counted carefully – one day-Sunday, two days-Monday...three, four, five, six days-Friday. She cleaned her room for Sabbath. On the seventh day, she sang songs and worshiped Jesus. In the afternoon she went for a walk outside and saw a cute little bunny. Jesus was happy that she remembered the Sabbath day.



Memory Text:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20: 8

Passion heard a preacher on TV that read the Bible verse where God said "Remember the sabbath day," but she wanted to watch cartoons. On Friday she played instead of cleaning her room for Sabbath. And on Sabbath she forgot to keep it holy. She decided to go to the store, but on the way her only quarter rolled into a deep hole. Passion was very sad, and Jesus was sad too, because she forgot to keep the Sabbath.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

According to the Surgeon General, although 70% of health is determined by lifestyle, 10% is determined by environment. (Absolute Advantage, Vol. 3, #8, pg. 10) It is interesting to note that in a perfect environment, when man was created, he lived in a garden. *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”* Gen. 2:15 Science is starting to prove that that is for a good reason. Perhaps first we think of the high levels of air pollution in cities. An article in U.S. News and World Report stated that living in a city with heavy air pollution such as Los Angeles is as risky to the heart as being a former smoker. Another cardiologist stated that the effect of pollution was about the same we see with secondhand smoke. (U.S. News and World Report, March 10, 2008, pg. 53)

But that is not the only reason for country living. In January 2009, an article from another news source stated, *“Scientists have begun to examine how the city affects the brain, and the results are chastening. Just being in an urban environment, they have found, impairs our basic mental processes. After spending a few minutes on a crowded city street, the brain is less able to hold things in memory, and suffers from reduced self-control...This new research suggests that cities actually dull our thinking, sometimes dramatically so.”* http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2009/01/04/how_the_city_hurts_your_brain/?page=2

In a study at the University of Michigan, undergraduates were outfitted with GPS receivers. Some students took a stroll in the arboretum [gardens with trees and bushes] while others walked around the busy streets of the city. *“The subjects were then run through a battery of psychological tests. People who had walked through the city were in a worse mood and scored significantly lower on a test of attention and working memory. In fact, just glancing at a photograph of urban scenes led to measurable impairments, at least when compared with pictures of nature.”* http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2009/01/04/how_the_city_hurts_your_brain/?page=2



What is even more surprising to me, is that these studies even confirmed the spiritual advantages of the country told in Fundamentals of Christian Education, *“Those who will take their families into the country, place them where they will have fewer temptations.... In the city,...the work of character building is tenfold harder for both parents and children.”* (pg. 326)

The world is now scientifically proving this. *“The density of the city life doesn’t just make it harder to focus: It also interferes with our self-control. In that stroll down Newberry”[a street in a retail district], the brain is also assaulted with temptations—caramel lattes, iPods, discounted cashmere sweaters, and high-heeled shoes. Resisting these temptations requires us to flex the prefrontal cortex, a nub of the brain area that’s responsible for directed attention, which means that it’s already been depleted from walking around the city. As a result it’s less able to exert self-control...”* http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2009/01/04/how_the_city_hurts_your_brain/?page=3

Country living has actually been shown to give the brain a distinct advantage. *“In 1972 Scientific American published a comparison study between two groups of genetically similar rats raised in two different environments. The first environment was crowded, stacked cage conditions. The second was referred to as a seminatural environment in a large enclosure with more space, logs, sand, plants, burrows, limbs, etc. At the end of the experiment it was found that the brain synapses were 50% larger and the brain weight was increased by 6.4% in the rats living in the seminatural environment as compared to animals living in the caged conditions. The parallel to human development was indicated.”* (You Can Survive by Jere Franklin, pg. 137)

No wonder God’s word declares, *“Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!”* Isaiah 5: 8 So why not try country living as an environmentally sound option for your health, today?



Little Runner’s Health Tip

Ollie the Otter loves to play outside. Sometimes she plays with a pretty rock. Playing outside is good for boys and girls too.

STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED--REMEMBERING

1. The Bible declares that we are to remember the _____

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:” Isaiah 46:9,10

2. Since we are to learn the end from the beginning, name two twin institutions that had their origin in the Garden of Eden before sin? _____ and _____ (Consider that God’s original twin institutions will also be the points under heaviest attack by Satan at the end of time)

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” Genesis 2:2,3

“And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:22-24 (See also Mark 10:5-10)



3. What is the first commandment containing the word remember? _____

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8-11

4. What does the last command to “remember” in the Old Testament counsel us not to forget? _____

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.” Malachi 4:4

5. Besides remembering what we have received and heard, what does the last command to remember in the Bible warn us to do? _____, _____ and _____

“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.” Revelation 3:3

hold fast, repent, watch

Answers: 1. former things of old 2. the Sabbath and marriage 3. Remember the Sabbath day 4. the law 5.