

Particular joys of the Christian Life # 3
Grace Gospel Chapel 29 May 2005

THE JOY OF REMEMBRANCE

2 Peter 1:1-15

I. An Introductory Note

In talking about the joys of the Christian life, we have first talked about the joy of salvation: the happiness or inner peace that comes when one knows that he or she is right with God. Our second discussion was presented in concentrated form with the joy of working together set in 2 Corinthians 6. It is not hard to think of many joys that pertain to Christian life and I am not sure that the order is very important. Salvation is primary of course, for without it there is no life, but following that the matter of order is not great. But the joy of memory or remembrance is a joy that has always appealed to me for memory is one of the great gifts of God and one does not realize how good it is to have it.....until one begins to lose it.

Remembrance is defined as calling to mind again, the accurate rethinking of events and circumstances. There are several Greek and Hebrew words translated this way in the KJV, et al. I will not elaborate on them in an individualized way...the general idea is about the same. Key texts in the Old Testament include Deuteronomy 8:4, 18; 32:7; Ecclesiastes 12:1, etc. Key texts in the New Testament include Luke 22:19; John 15:20; 16:4, and the well know 1 Corinthians 11:24. From these texts we learn the importance of remembrance generally and in

the study of them we see the joy particularly.

II. The Joy of Remembrance: Dt. 8:4, Luke 22:19

The joy of remembrance is the power to recall what God has done and be able to live in the light of that blessing. With the recall of what God has done comes the personal recollections that make remembrance very meaningful in life...sometimes challenging, sometimes threatening, sometimes directing. But it is a joy to have such a monumental force at our service. The texts given us in 2 Peter 1 and 3 serve as a guide for our study.

A. We remember our deliverance: 1:3, 12

We remember that we were without God and in a position of hostility. We remember that no matter how we tried we could not provide our own salvation. We remember that our consciences were only capable of making us fear God...then the Lord Jesus came into our lives and “everything was different” as we were born anew

1. having obtained
2. through

We learn to be thankful

B. We remember God’s promises 1:4, 12

In ourselves we still did not have the equipment to make life successful. But in Christ the Lord provided everything for life and godliness. Then He instructed us as to how we should grow in this living

experience and provided the power for its accomplishment. As in Colossians 2:10, we now realize that we are complete in Christ and we may smile in every direction.

1. Great and precious
2. that ye might be
3. having escaped
4. add

We should be **committed**

C. We remember God's enactments 1:13

The accounts in the Gospels and the come to our attention. We may see glimpses of the grace of God working similarly in our lives

1. The Gospel Ministry
2. The Work in Acts
3. Personal experiences

We learn to be **help others**

D. Conclusion

Memory is a gift from God and remembrance is an assignment to us who are His.

To remember is not to brood on the past but to consult the reality of the past as a key to understanding the present and preparing for the future. Some remembrances are painful but there is a joy even in these...for from them we learn many lessons about the grace of God. The real challenge however is to use the remembrance for the enrichment of the present. And that is the joy of remembrance.

Practice it when we meet to “remember” the Lord with the emblems that speak of His sacrifice.

Practice it when you feel frustrated or overwhelmed by a present circumstance.

Practice it when you have an opportunity to serve and to be a blessing to others.

Practice it when you see others growing and being guided in the will of God.

Peter’s prayer is very direct. He would not leave his flock without an admonition to remember what the Lord means to us and how He has benefitted and challenged us. The joy of memory is the point of his exhortation.