

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	Remember
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SERIES	
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DATE	5/26/2024
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KEY SCRIPTURE	Psalm 77; Psalm 103; and others
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SYNOPSIS	It's good for us to intentionally remember God's goodness and faithfulness.
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HIGHLIGHTS	
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☞ Remember!

Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Not only that, for many it is simply a day to remember any loved ones who have passed on, whether in the military or not. Besides barbecuing or picnicking, there will be some fond memories of those who have gone before.

It's important for us to **remember what God has done**. The Scripture is filled with admonitions to remember God's work. God has done some amazing things, hasn't he? Let's remember just a few...

In Genesis 1 & 2, is the account of **creation**. With just his words, God created everything. In Genesis 7, at his command the entire earth was **flooded** enough to cover the highest mountains. Yet, he spared a godly man's family as well as a pair of every basic family group of animals. God demonstrates justice and mercy simultaneously.

In Exodus, God worked with **Moses** and spoke from within a burning bush; He sent various plagues on Egypt all while protecting the Israelites; He led them out of bondage, gave them the bulk of Egypt's wealth, and provided a dry path through the Red Sea. Later he provided bread from heaven called Manna to feed the huge crowd of Israelites.

One might think of **Joshua, Gideon** or **Samson**. How about **David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego** and **Daniel**, not to mention **the prophets**? God was especially impressive in **Jesus Christ**. Born of a virgin, he performed countless miracles including healings, feeding 5,000 people with next to nothing, as well as calming a storm and walking on water. And ultimately, he died on a cross to save us from our sins. And that's not all. Three days later, he rose from dead, having conquered the grave. Now he offers eternal life to all who believe.

It is good for us to remember what God has done. When we don't there are negative effects. Some people who are ungrateful, not remembering God's goodness, become messed up in their thinking and ultimately become darkened and depraved.

☞ **Forgetting leads to Disdain.** (pride)

Deuteronomy 8:10-14 basically says that when we don't intentionally remember what God has done, we tend to take the credit for it all ourselves. We begin to think we are pretty awesome, and pride leads to a downfall. (Proverbs 16:18)

☞ **Forgetting leads to Disobedience.**

Psalms 78:9-11 tells us that when we forget God's faithfulness, power and justice we tend to falter and fall into disobedience.



☞ Forgetting leads to Distrust.

Psalms 78:22... “they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.” When we don’t remember and rehearse what God has done, we tend to waver in our faith, and distrust settles in.

☞ Forgetting leads to God’s Displeasure.

Psalms 78:41-42... “Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel. **42** They did not remember his power.” Did you know that you can tick God off? When we fail to remember his power and don’t trust him, it can provoke him.

☞ Forgetting leads to Dormancy.

Psalms 78:61... “He sent the ark of his might into captivity, his splendor into the hands of the enemy.” When we don’t remember and express gratitude for God’s goodness, we tend to become complacent. Philippians 3:13 says that there are some things we should forget... but not the things Christ has done.

☞ Forgetting leads to Destruction.

Deuteronomy 8:19... “If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.”

Let’s not forget God’s goodness. We all go through times when we might question God and wonder what in the world is going on. But, let’s never forget God’s goodness and faithfulness.

☞ **In Psalm 77:7-15 we see the writer questions God, but then deliberately chooses to remember, which rebuilds his confidence in the Lord.**

☞ Remembering leads to Fear of God.

v. 13 **God is holy**

v. 14 **God is powerful**

When we remember God’s holiness and power, it inspires respect and a righteous fear.

☞ Remembering leads to Faith.

☞ v. 13 **God is greater than all others**

v. 14 **God performs miracles**

v. 15 **God redeems people**

--J. G. Machen... *The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust him; the greater our progress in theology, the simpler and more childlike will be our faith.*

God is trustworthy. We can put our faith in him. It’s forgetfulness that leads to distrust, but when we remember that God is greater than all others; he does the miraculous, and he redeems people; then, our faith is inspired. God is bigger than your problem. God can miraculously change your situation.

☞ Remembering leads to Future.



Psalms 78:3-4, 6-7... “what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. **4** We will not hide them from their children; we will **tell the next generation** the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... **6** so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. **7** Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”

This is a good reminder for parents. Make sure your children know about God. Tell them what he did in the Bible, what he has done in your life, and in the generations that even preceded you.

☞ So, let's **remember God's goodness...**

Psalms 103:1-5... “Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. **2** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits — **3** who **forgives** all your sins and **heals** all your diseases, **4** who **redeems** your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, **5** who **satisfies** your desires with good things so that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's.”

Let's not be forgetful; let's remember who God is and what God has done!

OBC stories:

About the time we officially decided to add on to the church, we were notified that OBC was included in a will to the tune of around \$30,000. Then, just as we were finishing construction and wishing we could upgrade our sound system for the expanded Worship Center, we received a large donation of around \$50,000. And, in 2018 we received another large donation with \$10,000 specifically designated to help us finish the mortgage early.

Personal stories:

I remember when I should have been electrocuted and killed as a stupid teenager. We found out later that my grandma felt a strong compulsion to pray for me at that very time. God spared me in response to my grandma's prayers.

I remember when my car slid on ice and was headed straight for the river. At the last moment I hit something that bounced me back onto the road. It bent my rear axle, but saved me from a frigid swim in the river.

I remember when we moved to Oregon to complete my Bible College. On paper, our budget did not add up, but somehow God provided. God has always been faithful.

Let's intentionally remember what God has done. He is holy and powerful; he is greater than all the rest; he does the supernatural naturally; he restores and redeems and renews. God is good... Remember! **Testimonies?**

Song: Faithful Now