

Keeping In Memory

Intro: Toward the end of Paul's first letter to the Christians at Corinth, he is reminding them of the Gospel and their obedience to it (Acts 18:1-18). He writes to them; 1 Cor. 15:1-4 ¹Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." Notice that he reminds them of the fact they are saved by the Gospel. Interestingly, he does not say that obedience is sufficient, but places the condition of their salvation upon "if" they "keep in memory."

I. WHAT DOES "KEEP IN MEMORY" MEAN.

A. It comes from the one word, κατέχω (*katecho*).

1. Zodhiates has, "to have, hold. Hold fast, retain, or hold down, quash, suppress."
2. Thayer has, "to hold fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of."

B. The Corinthians obedience was in vain unless they "keep in memory"; 1 Cor. 15:2 ²By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

II. THIS ACTION IS OFTEN STRESSED.

A. Continue in the faith

1. Col. 1:21-23 ²¹And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: ²³If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"
2. We are to be holy, unblameable, and unreproveable.
 - a. *Holy* from the Greek ἅγιος (*hagios*) meaning, "set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his... in a moral sense, pure, sinless, upright, holy" (Thayer).
 - b. *Unblameable* from the Greek ἄμωμος (*amomos*) meaning, "pertaining to being without defect or blemish, unblemished... pertaining to being without fault and therefore morally blameless" (BDAG).
 - c. *Unreproveable* from the Greek ἀνεγκλητος (*anekletos*) meaning, "that cannot be called to account, unreprovable, blameless" (Thayer).
3. For a reason; 1 Pet. 2:9 ⁹But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises [excellencies—ASV] of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

B. Stand fast in one spirit, striving for the faith.

1. Phi. 1:27 ²⁷Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"
2. Standing fast in the Lord; Phi. 4:1 ¹Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved."
3. Holding fast sound words; 2 Tim. 1:13 ¹³Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

C. Contend for the faith.

1. Jude 3 ⁴³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
2. Holding the faith in a good conscience; 1 Tim. 1:19 ⁴⁹ Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:”
3. Holding the mystery; 1 Tim. 3:9 ⁴⁹ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”

III. SOME THINGS THAT HELP US TO “KEEP IN MEMORY.”

- A. Remember the price of your salvation; 1 Pet. 1:18-23** ¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰ Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹ Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. ²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
- B. Be led by the Spirit.**
1. Rom. 8:14 ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”
 2. The Spirit leads us through the Word of God.
- C. Love everyone**
1. Mat. 22:39 ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
 2. Rom. 13:10 ¹⁰ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.”
 3. Leading us to do good to all men; Gal. 6:10 ¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
 4. Always practicing the golden rule;
- D. Follow Christ’s example; 1 Pet. 2:21-25** ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

Conclusion: We need to “keep in memory” our great salvation and follow the pattern set forth by Peter (2 Pet. 1:5-10 ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”) so we will never fall (Rev. 2:7 ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God”). Truly, “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life.”