Some Things For Christians To Remember

Intro: On at least two occasions Christ shows man the need to remember. Luke 16:25; 17:32 “But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.... 17:32 Remember Lot’s wife.” In this lesson I want us to notice some things we need to remember.

I. WE MAY BE OUR OWN WORST ENEMY BY OPPOSING OURSELVES.
   A. 2 Tim. 2:25 “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”
   B. We are our own worse enemy when we:
      1. Murmur and complain: 1 Cor. 10:10 “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
      2. High temper: Jam. 1:20 “For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”
      3. Bad tongue: Jam. 3:5 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”
      5. Unforgiving: Mat. 6:15 “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
      6. Stubborn: Pro. 29:1 “He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
      7. Worldly: Phi. 3:19 “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”
      8. When we do things such as this we are opposing ourselves both physically and spiritually.

II. WE SHOULD CHANGE OUR MINDS IF WE ARE WRONG.
   A. Some people will never admit they were wrong about anything
      1. To admit we were wrong is to prove that we are wiser today than we were yesterday.
      2. To confess wrong is to admit one’s humanity.
      3. Never to admit wrong is to pose as divine, for only the Divine One never sins.
   B. Paul changed.
      1. Acts 22:1-6 “Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you. 2(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,) 3I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. 4And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. 6And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.”
      2. Acts 26:9-12 “And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 9And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee
of all things which are appointed for thee to do. 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,”

III. RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL.

A. Mat. 5:43-44 “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

B. Rom. 12:19-21 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

C. Examples
1. Christ
   a. Isa. 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”
   b. 1 Pet. 2:23 “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;”

2. Story: The horse of a good man strayed into the road. A neighbor put the animal in the public pond and said to its owner, “If I catch him in the road again, I’ll do it again.” The neighbor replied, “A week ago I saw your cattle in my meadow, and I drove them out and shut them in your pasture. If I ever catch them there again, I’ll do it again.” It so struck the man that he took the horse out of the pond and paid the charges.

IV. DO NOT BLINDLY FOLLOW ANOTHER.

A. The majority will be lost, Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

B. Mat. 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

C. Christ is to be our example.
1. 1 Cor. 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”
2. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
3. Gal. 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,”
4. Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;”
5. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him he himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

D. One of the most famous epitaphs reads: “Stranger, stop as you go by: As you are now, so once was I, As I am now, you soon will be; And so prepare to follow me.” Someone reading this, and seriously considering the matter, wisely added two lines. “To follow you I’m not content, Until I know which way you went.”
V. SATAN IS TRYING TO GET YOUR SOUL.
A. Satan seeks to destroy.
   1. The name Satan means adversary.
   2. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”
   3. Rev. 9:11 “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.” (Abaddon means destruction and Apollyon means destroyer.)
B. He does this by:
   1. Tempting; Mat. 4:1 “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”
   2. Lying; John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
   3. Stealing the word; Luke 8:12 “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”
   4. Persecuting; Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
   5. Fashioning himself into an angel of light; 2 Cor. 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”
C. We must, therefore, watch, be vigilant.
   1. 1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”
   2. 1 The. 5:6 “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”

VI. STAYING AWAY FROM THE SERVICES AND FELLOWSHIP OF GOD’S PEOPLE WILL CAUSE YOU TO BECOME COLD.
A. Rev. 3:15-16 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
B. Example: A preacher called on a member who habitually absented himself from the worship services. The family was gathered around the fireplace. The preacher silently lifted a large red coal and laid it by itself on the hearth. He sat and silently looked at the coal. It gradually faded into a black mass, became lukewarm, and then became cold and dead. The man looked at the preacher and said, “You need not say a word; I get the point. I’ll be there next Sunday.”

VII. YOU MUST BE COUPLED TO CHRIST.
A. Coupled to Christ
   1. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
2. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

3. Phi. 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

4. Phi. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

B. **Example:** Two travelers who thought they were able to take care of themselves, entered a railway car and found seats. The porter looked in and asked them to go forward. “What is the matter with this coach?” they asked. With a grin he replied, “nothing, Only it ain’t coupled to anything that’ll take you anywhere.” That is the trouble with many in the church. They sit there and look nice. But they are not going to heaven, because they are not coupled to Christ. “Churchanity” but no “Christianity!”

Conclusion: By remembering this principles, it will help us to overcome Satan and gain an eternal home with God in heaven.