

Remember Now Thy Creator

Intro: Solomon tried to obtain happiness and fulfillment in life through everything under the sun. He came to realize that all is vanity; Ecc. 1:2 “² Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” He came to realize that the only way to obtain purpose in life and thus happiness and fulfillment is by doing God’s will; Ecc. 12:13-14 “¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.” This responsibility should begin at the earliest time of life. Thus, Solomon gives the encouragement that is the title of our lesson. Ecc. 12:1 “¹ 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;”

I. REMEMBER WHOM?

A. Man has a Creator: God.

1. Wisdom says so:
 - a. Cosmological Argument. For every effect there must be sufficient cause.
 - b. Teleological Argument. The marvelous design (hand, eye, etc.) involved in these can only be explained in light of a designer (God).
 - c. Moral Argument. There does exist such a thing as outside, objective, moral law; there is moral law beyond (greater than) international law.
2. The Bible says so:
 - a. Gen. 1:1 “¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
 - b. Gen. 1:27 “²⁷ So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

B. Thus, man is not his own; we belong to God.

1. Psa. 24:1 “¹ The earth *is* the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”
2. Eze. 18:4 “⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”
3. Zec. 12:1 “¹ The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.”

C. Man can come to a knowledge of God.

1. Through His Son: Jesus Christ
 - a. Mat. 11:27 “²⁷ All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*.”
 - b. John 1:18 “¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”
 - c. John 14:9 “⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?”
2. By God’s Holy Spirit
 - a. 1 Cor. 2:11 “¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”

- b. He does this by the prophets and apostles who spoke by His inspiration.
- (1) Mark 13:11 ^{“11} But when they shall lead *you*, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.”
 - (2) 1 Cor. 2:7-13 ^{“7} But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
 - (3) They also wrote that word for us; Eph. 3:3-4 ^{“3} How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”

D. Often, man forgets God.

1. Jer. 2:32 ^{“32} Can a maid forget her ornaments, *or* a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.”
2. Rom. 1:28 ^{“28} And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”
3. Thus, we must remember our Creator.

II. REMEMBER HOW?

A. Acknowledging His Goodness.

1. Jam. 1:17 ^{“17} Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
2. Physically:
 - a. Psa. 145:9 ^{“9} The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works.”
 - b. Mat. 5:45 ^{“45} That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”
 - c. Acts 14:17 ^{“17} Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”
3. Spiritually:
 - a. Giving us all spiritual blessings; Eph. 1:3 ^{“3} Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ;”
 - b. Giving us His Son.
 - (1) John 3:16 ^{“16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
 - (2) Rom. 5:8 ^{“8} But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - c. Giving us salvation, reconciling man to Himself.
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:18-19 ^{“18} And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ,

reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

- (2) Heb. 2:17 ^{“17} Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

B. Studying and meditating upon His Word.

1. 2 Tim. 2:15 ^{“15} Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. Psa. 1:2 ^{“2} But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”
3. Psa. 119:11 ^{“11} Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
4. Hos. 8:12 ^{“12} I have written to him the great things of my law, *but* they were counted as a strange thing.”

C. Keeping His Commandments.

1. Ecc. 12:13-14 ^{“13} Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.”
2. John 14:15 ^{“15} If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
3. 1 John 5:3 ^{“3} For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

D. When we forget God we do evil.

III. REMEMBER WHEN?

A. In the days of thy youth. (Must begin then).

1. Pro. 22:6 ^{“6} Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
2. Deu. 4:9 ^{“9} Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;”
3. Deu. 6:6-9 ^{“6} And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”
4. Timothy:
 - a. 2 Tim. 3:15 ^{“15} And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:5 ^{“5} When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

B. But not only in youth.

1. It is never too late to start.
 - a. Parable of the laborers; Mat. 20:1-16 (vv. 9, 12 ^{“9} And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.... ¹² Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.”)
 - b. The thief on the cross; Luke 23:42-43 ^{“42} And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

2. Saul; Paul.
 - a. For many years lived contrary to Christ.
 - (1) Acts 26:9-10 ⁹ I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.”
 - (2) 1 Tim. 1:13 ¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”
 - b. Yet, he became a stalwart servant and apostle of Christ.

IV. REMEMBER WHY?

A. Because He is worthy.

1. The book of Psalms; Psa. 29:1-2 ¹ Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. ² Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
2. Rev. 4:8-11 ⁸ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. ⁹ And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, ¹⁰ The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

B. Because of what He has done for us.

1. In providing a Savior and salvation.
 - a. Titus 2:11 ¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
 - b. Heb. 2:9 ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
 - c. John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
2. In providing fulfillment of life.
 - a. Ecc. 12:13-14 ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.”
 - b. Acts 17:27-28 ²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: ²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”
3. Thus, bring joy and peace.
 - a. Phi. 4:4 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
 - b. John 14:27 ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

C. Because of the consequences of forgetting.

1. What happens to man.
 - a. Amos 8:11-12 ¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: ¹² And

they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*.”

- b. Hos. 4:6 “⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
 - c. See Rom. 1.
2. Eternal damnation.
- a. 2 The. 1:7-9 “⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
 - b. Mat. 13:49-50 “⁴⁹ So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Conclusion: Have you remembered God in your life? If not, start now.