

The Lord's Supper and Remembering or Forgetting (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

A. For God

1. What you want Him to forget
2. What you want Him to remember

B. For Believers

1. What you should forget
2. What you should remember

A. For God

1. What you want God to *forget*:

➤ “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Heb. 10:17; 8:12; Jer. 31:34).

2. What you want God to *remember*:

a. **You:** In Lk. 23:42, the thief on the cross said, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” He didn’t have to remember very long, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (vs. 43b). That is the happiest thing there is, namely, “that where I am, there you may be also” (Jn. 14:3). Jesus had given the disciples the victory “over all

- a. (cont.) the power of the enemy,” but He said, “do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven” (Lk. 10:19b, 20b).
- b. Your work:** “For God is not unjust so as to forget your **work** and the **love** which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints” (Heb. 6:10; cf. Pr. 19:17; Mt. 10:42; 25:40; Ac. 10:4; 2Cor. 5:10).

B. For Believers

1. What you should *forget*:

- a. “Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind** and reaching forward to what lies ahead” (Phil. 3:13).
- b. Love “does not take into account **a wrong suffered**” (1Cor. 13:5b). Forget wrongs, just as God forgets ours. This is really just forgiveness (ἄφεςις), “the act of freeing from an obligation.”

2. What you should *remember*:

- a. “Remember Lot’s wife” – and that is the complete verse (Lk. 17:32). – She was so attached to her material possessions that she couldn’t resist turning around to see if there was any hope of rescuing them for herself. Jews near the end of the Great Tribulation will face a similar temptation. By extension, we must make the right decision to seek “the things above, where Christ is” (Col. 3:1).
- b. We believers often feel that tug between the world and “the things above.” In the case of Demas, the world won (2Tim. 4:10). What about us? Cf. Rm. 12:1.

c. “**Remember** the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also” (Jn. 15:20).

➤ This is a sobering expression from our Lord. Because we are not greater than our Master we cannot expect to be treated better than He was, but rather in a similar manner, including **both** persecution **and** keeping His word.

d. “**Remember** those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith” (Heb. 13:7).

- e. “**Remember** Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned” (2Tim. 2:8-9).
- f. In Col. 4:18, Paul said, “**Remember** my imprisonment.”
- g. Heb. 13:3 says, “**Remember** the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.” This the Hebrews had done and were doing (Heb. 10:32-36).

Conc.

God knows far better than we do how fragile our memories are. He also knows the principle of repetition and how it can strengthen our memories. Peter knew it well also. See 2Pt. 1:12-15; 3:1-2. So, it makes perfect sense that Jesus said it twice that the Lord's Supper was to be observed, "in remembrance of Me" (1Cor. 11:24-25). And so, we observe it for the reason today.