

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

III. A Mind that Remembers

If you are like I am you have a problem with forgetting things. Well I used to, but not since I took that Sam Carnegie course!

Now there are only three things I have trouble remembering. They are names – faces and – I can't remember the third one.

A friend of mine encourages me. He says, "Don't worry if you start losing your memory. Just forget about it."

Some of us who are Senior Citizens get a lot of teasing about this. An older couple was watching television when he got up to get a coke she said, "While you are in there bring me a dish of ice cream with chocolate syrup and cool whip. You had better write it down or you won't remember."

He was gone about 30 minutes and returned with a tray – 2 eggs sunny side up, crisp toast and jelly. She said, "I told you to write it down. You forgot the bacon."

Whether we are young, old or in between there are some things we should never forget:

A. We should never forget God.

We are living in a day and with a generation that has mostly forgotten God. They think they have outgrown God. It's not that they believe that "God is dead" as some announced a generation ago. Few would go that far, but many feel that God has grown old and has retired. He has been put on a pension and given the honorary and harmless title "Heavenly Father" or "the man upstairs" or even "God Emeritus."

They have forgotten that God is alive and active in the here and now. He is still the almighty God – the creator of heaven and earth – the Sovereign of the universe. Many have forgotten that "He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got you and me in His hands" as the song says.

Isn't it time for God to step in and say to us as He said to ancient Israel, "Don't forget when you have an abundance, when you have eaten and are full, when

your silver and gold have multiplied that it is the Lord your God who giveth you power to get wealth. Remember that it was I who delivered you from bondage and brought you into this abundance. If you forget this you will surely perish." (a paraphrase of Deuteronomy 8:6-20)

B. We should never forget that the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us.

The Bible reminds us of this on practically every page of the New Testament. Consider this verse:

"...ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ ..." (I Peter 1:18-19)

We must never forget that we belong to Jesus Christ. He is Lord of our lives. Since this is true we owe Him our obedience.

He is our Lord and when He says we are to be His witness – we witness. When He says we are to be the light of the world – we shine! When He says concerning the tithe, "this you ought to do" – we do (don't we?). When He says give an account of your stewardship – we shall.

We should never forget to be thankful and express it.

Recently I received a birthday card from my daughter, which read on the cover:

"Dad – sometimes it seems like all you do is give, give, give..."

[Open the card and it reads:]

"I'm just glad that I'm able to be there for you in those times!"

Happy Birthday! Love, Judy

I have an idea that many of us could express the same sentiment to God: "Sometimes it seems all you do is give and give – I'm just glad that I'm there to receive." But then, there is no expression of love or thanks on our part. We need to remember, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8) Thank and praise Him for it.

One of the most obvious ways we can show our love for Christ and express our thankfulness is in our church. The scripture tells us that, "Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it." In fact, He so identifies Himself with His church that the way we treat the church is the way we treat our Savior.

Paul says, "I was persecuting the church." When he met Jesus he was asked, "Why are you persecuting me?" Get the point!

In **STEWARDSHIP ENRICHMENT** we all will have an opportunity to show our love and express our thanksgiving by our sacrificial commitment.

Soon we will all hold a commitment card in our hands. Our church is asking us to make a financial commitment, which represents our faith and love for our church and our God. We will do this and do it with joy.

Lord, I love you with my mind you are always in my thoughts.