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Remind Me, Dear Lord

*The things that I love
And hold dear to my heart
Are just borrowed
They're not mine at all.
Jesus only let me use them
To brighten my life,
So remind me,
Remind me, dear Lord.
Nothing good have I done
To deserve God's own Son;
I'm not worthy
Of the scars in His hands.
Yet He chose the road to Calvary
To die in my stead;
Why He loved me,
I can't understand.*

Refrain:
*Roll back the curtain of memory
Now and then;
Show me where You brought me from
And where I could have been;
Remember I'm human,
And humans forget;
So remind me,
Remind me, dear Lord.*

**WORDS: Dottie Rambo (w. 1966)
Music: Dottie Rambo (w. 1966)**

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***¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body,
to stir you up by way of reminder...***

2 Peter 1:13

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Do You Remember?

Our brain is an amazing organ. It controls our entire body as well as our memory. We have a short-term memory, spanning anywhere from a few seconds to a few days, and we have long-term memory that spans days, months, even years. With that power it is amazing that we forget so much, and yet we do.

I meet people after years apart, and sometimes I can remember their faces but cannot remember their name. If I do recall their names, I may not be able to place where I knew them, or in what capacity. Was it at church, at work, in a social club, or benevolent activity? For the life of me, I cannot remember.

People in general recognize the tendency to forget, and we frequently devise ways to remember important people or dates. Think about it. We have highways, bridges, and military installations named after people. Sometimes people place decorated crosses where a loved one died in an accident. There are stone grave markers, statues, and plaques with names engraved, lest we forget. We write diaries or journals and take pictures or videos, so we won't forget important moments in the lives of our loved ones.

That is just one reason we have the Bible. It reminds us of the many failures and triumphs of God's people. We learn of faithfulness through Daniel. We are reminded of obedience through Noah and Joseph. We can learn the long-term consequences of adultery through David's life story. We can sympathize with Jonah's rebellion and anger at the people of Nineveh and learn about an attitude adjustment when God sent the worm to cut his shading vine.

In the New Testament we can learn much from the parables, just as the people of Israel could. We also have some great examples of other real-life lessons through the people Jesus and the apostles interacted with. We can learn of generosity from the account of the widow's mite, or Tabatha's many garments sewn. We learn of evil intent from Ananias and Sapphira, or Simon the sorcerer.

All these recordings are to remind us of what we should or should not do to be pleasing to God. God wants us to remember His commands and to remember the consequences, good or bad, for our actions. He commanded Joshua to set up a memorial of twelve stones from the bed of the Jordan River to remind the people that God divided the water for them to cross there. Two stones on the shoulders of the priest's ephod were engraved with the names of the twelve tribes as a memorial. Many of the commanded sacrifices were memorials to remind the people of the consequences of their sins. The sabbath was a memorial to remind them of their relationship with God. The burning censers were to be a reminder that only the seed of Aaron could offer incense. The feast of Purim was a reminder of the Jews' triumph over Haman's evil intent. The Passover feast was to remind the people of God's deliverance when all the firstborn of Egypt were killed.

Jesus recognized and observed that important memorial. He then modified it to set up a very important reminder for each of us. He told us the unleavened bread was his body and the wine was his blood sacrificed for our sins. By example, we partake of those elements every first day of the week. We are told it is to remind us of that loving sacrifice made for us, so we do not have to suffer that same fate. God knew we needed to be reminded, lest we forget or grow calloused to that magnanimous gift.



God even provided help for us to remember all these things. John 14:26 tells us, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all

things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

The question is, do you utilize the tools given us? Do you remember?

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, LA
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TWO MEMORIALS FROM THE FIRST CENTURY

Being deeply involved in mission work in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India, our family sometimes made those arduous trips from one side of the globe to the other. On one such journey, we ended up in the city of Rome on the Lord's Day. Our flight schedule would not allow time to meet with the church, so we had private worship.

Naturally, being in such a great historical city, we went to the top of one of the "seven hills of Rome" and gathered together, looking down at the ruins of what had once been momentous memorials erected in honor of the rulers of the Empire. What an overwhelming statement of power those edifices must have been for everyone walking those streets!



In the worship of our Lord, we also had a memorial: the simple unleavened bread representing the precious body that was so cruelly sacrificed for our sins, and the fruit of the vine in remembrance of the blood that daily enables us to come into our Father's presence as innocent souls.

What a contrast! Monuments erected at great cost and labor, now fallen into decay, and the names of the men for whom they were built now remembered only in history books. But the memorial for Jesus Christ? Though seemingly insignificant—only a little perishable bread and fruit of the vine—but it lives today in the worship by His brothers and sisters all over the world!

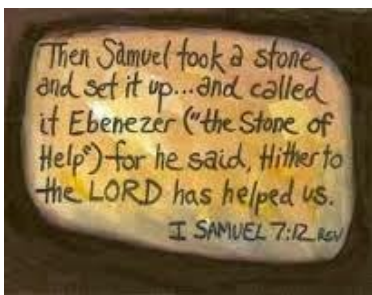
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Betty Burton Choate,
Via The Voice of Truth International
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Who or What is Ebenezer?

Not Ebenezer Scrooge, but an Ebenezer Stone! I heard the word “Ebenezer” a few times in a song we occasionally sing. It was written in 1758 by Robert Robinson, titled, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” In the second verse, it mentions “raising up my Ebenezer*—hither by Thy help I’ve come.” The tiny footnote said, “*Ebenezer Stone of help.” Since I love rock and stone (my windowsills are full of beautiful stones, plus lots of rocks are in my flower garden), I was curious what it meant.

Ebenezer Stone appears in 1 Samuel 7. The Philistines were about to attack the Israelites (again). But you must back up 20 years to 1 Samuel 4 to understand the scenario. Twenty years earlier, the Israelites were about to fight the Philistines and set up camp next to Ebenezer, which is believed to be a town in that area. They had been victorious in the past, but this time



things would be different for them because during those peaceful days before this battle, there was an outbreak of idol worship among the Israelites. Not only did

they sin by going against God’s commands but also through neglecting offerings to Him. They offered to idols instead!

On that battle occasion, they brought the Ark of the Covenant to the battlefield with them, thinking it would surely shield them from the Philistines and help them win the battle (1 Samuel 4:5). Despite being terrified, the Philistines fought, and Israel suffered a devastating loss of **30,000** men, **and** the Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines and taken to Ashdod.

Wow! Clearly, the Israelites were mistaken thinking that a symbol of God, the Ark, would give them victory, when their hearts had left God to serve idols. Eventually, the Ark of the Covenant was sent back to Israel because the Philistines suffered many plagues while it was in their possession.

Jump forward 20 years to 1 Samuel 7 where we started. By this time Samuel, a judge/prophet in Israel, advised the Israelites: “If you are returning to the Lord

with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve Him only, and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 1 Samuel 7:3

1 Samuel 7:3

New American Standard Bible

Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the Lord with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”

Israel responded correctly. They discontinued the worship of the false gods, Baal and Ashtaroth, and a revival took place. Israel turned their hearts to serve the Lord only, 1 Samuel 7:4. Samuel then gathered all the Israelites in Mizpah for prayer, fasting, and repentance.

The Philistines thought they were gathering to attack them, so they decided to attack first. The Israelites pleaded with Samuel for him to continue praying. He offered a lamb as a burnt offering and prayed fervently until he heard an answer from God who spared their

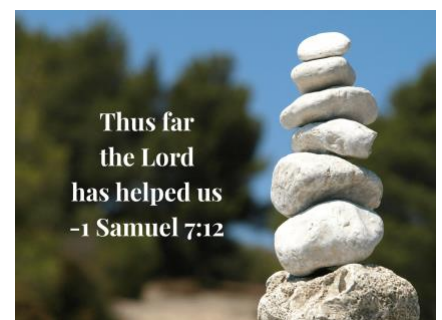
1 Samuel 7:10

King James Version

And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

lives that day. When the Philistines neared Mizpah, they were met with a thunderous sound (1 Samuel 7:10). Terror shook their ranks as it rolled over them, and they became unsteady on their feet. This unsteadiness and confusion allowed for a great victory to be achieved, with God’s help of course, by the Israelites who pursued them.

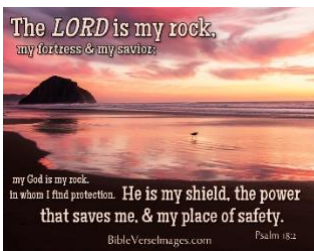
After their victory, Samuel set up the Ebenezer Stone at the site of victory to commemorate it. The monument was placed between Mizpah and Shen, where the Philistines were defeated with God’s help (1 Samuel 7:12). Samuel did this to remind the people of the important lesson learned, and they could pass it on to their children and grandchildren. Every time they saw



Remember

the Ebenezer Stone, they remembered God's help as long as they were faithful to Him. We all need reminders! Because of Samuel's leadership and faithfulness and Israel's repentance, they had a newfound faith in the one true God (1 Samuel 7:13).

What might be an "Ebenezer moment" for us? Perhaps a time when we are certain God has intervened in our life. Maybe a time we laid down our pride and repented. Or maybe when you realize that only God could have allowed the outcomes you have experienced. His help has brought you through thus far. Perhaps your Ebenezer moment is still coming. Maybe we all need an Ebenezer stone to remind us of God's faithfulness to us, that we are not trusting in *symbols* of faith, but in God Himself, who is our rock and our salvation. When we reflect on our lives, we can see that He has been the only thing that is unmovable, unshakeable, and our stone of help!



Psalm 18:2, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Isaiah 26:4, "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock."

Ephesians 2:19-22, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

1 Peter 2:4, "Come to Him, Christ, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious."

This story is full of meaning these days when our culture is drifting farther and farther away from our Rock. We all need to do what we can to turn our hearts back to the Lord. The last verse of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" goes: "Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee."

Marilyn Pecinovsky, Cresco, Iowa



More than once, my husband, Harold, and I have traveled to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed during the terrorist attacks of September 11. At the site, a docent recalls the events that took place two decades ago, reminding us of that tragic day in our country.

Tangible reminders of events in our history are important. As time passes, it is easy to forget. We are human, and we forget. We forget important historical events. We also forget things less important daily, so we need reminders.

- A red light on the dashboard reminds me it is time to fill the car with gas.
- A date book reminds me of birthdays, anniversaries, and appointments.
- A beeping sound from the kitchen reminds me the microwave is finished.

Perhaps you have a special way to remember where you parked the car when you shop.

Reminders are important. The apostle Peter thought so. He writes both of his letters as reminders.

"Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking." (2 Peter 3:1)

In the first chapter of 2 Peter, he uses these phrases:

"I will always **remind** you." (1:12)

"I think it right to **refresh** you." (1:13)

"I will make every effort to see you will always be able to **remember** these things." (1:14)

Peter is nearing the end of his life. He is probably in his 70's and writing from a Roman jail. Many think this letter is his farewell address. The emperor Nero, a man without moral principles, is on the throne in Rome as Peter writes his letter. Peter wanted to make sure Christians and the church were not led astray.

In each chapter of this short book Peter stresses remembering to his readers.

Chapter 1 - Remember the past. Verse 9 tells us to not forget that Jesus forgave us of sin.

Chapter 2 – Remember the present. Verse 1 indicates there were and are false teachers.

Chapter 3 – Remember the future. Verses 9 and 10 remind us God keeps his promises.

Take a few minutes to sit and read Second Peter. You will be reminded that Jesus died for you. You will be encouraged to stand firm in the faith, and you will be inspired by the promise of Jesus' return.

Monuments and memorials are important to help us remember historical events. But even more important are the words and ideas that Peter encourages us to remember.

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma

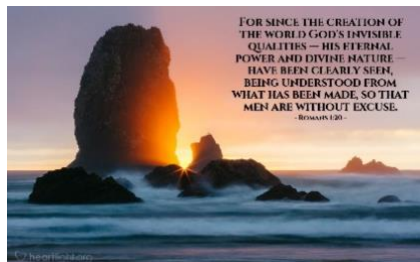
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REMEMBER

Memory is one of those things that becomes less and less sharp as we age. Some of us like to joke about our loss of memory, but it is an important part of our psyche, our brain function. Many of us have the same problem. We walk into a room and totally forget why we are there, so we must backtrack to remember what we were doing and why we came into the room. I don't know about you, but I have this problem a lot. It is frustrating, and this memory problem is all too common for humans.

Some have much more serious problems with memory, having totally lost their short-term memory. That is devastating to whole families. Fathers, mothers, and grandparents sometimes lose the ability to recognize even their family members. How sad for the families! But Christians who have this kind of dementia will remember everything in heaven! Hallelujah! Those of us who have our memory function intact are very blessed and should be grateful every day.

When God created human beings, He knew we would be forgetful people. We would "forget" Him and all He has done for us. We would even forget that He is the



FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD GOD'S INVISIBLE QUALITIES — HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE — HAVE BEEN CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE. ROMANS 1:20

One who created us. This memory loss began in the Garden of Eden. God says we have no excuse for forgetting Romans

1:18-20, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of

men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (NIV) Society today seems to have no recollection at all of who God is and what He does and has done for all mankind.

We commemorate a lot of people and events. Our country's flag is a symbol of the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives—lives lost fighting for our freedom as they gave the ultimate physical sacrifice so we could be free to choose—to choose God or the world, to govern ourselves or to allow someone else to govern us without having a vote in the matter.

The most important event that ever took place in history is the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without that event, all mankind would be doomed. Because our memory is so poor, Jesus gave us the way He wanted us to remember Him through communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. He gave us the elements we are to use in Matthew 26:26-29, which says, "29While they were eating, Jesus took

bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then He took the cup,



"For this is my blood ... which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:28

gave thanks and offered it to them saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.'"

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying; 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.' For

whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (NIV)

Paul also gave us the day in Acts 20:7., "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." (NKJV). This verse indicates the frequency (every first day of the week) to observe the memorial to remember Him.

I pray that no Christian will ever take this memorial for granted, that it never becomes just a habit. Paul again told the Corinthian Christians (and us) that we are to examine ourselves so that we never take the Lord's supper in an unworthy manner, which will condemn us. It will cause us to be guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of our Lord. That is a very serious offense. My mind must be on the cross, not what I am having for lunch or any other worldly activity.

We are so blessed because of this memorial event. May we never forget!

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri



REMEMBER TO WHOM WE BELONG

Alan Jackson sings a nostalgic country song titled, "Remember When." Remembering is a part of life. It is a sad day when one begins to lose his or her memory.

Throughout the Bible, there are things that have been or still are important for God's children to remember. The Passover was to remind Israel that God brought them out of Egypt with a powerful hand, Exodus 13:9.

2 Peter 3:2

King James Version

That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

Paul told Timothy to "Remind them of these things, and solemnly exhort them in the presence of God," 2 Timothy 2:14. Peter urged his readers in 2 Peter 3:2 to "remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."

Jesus celebrated Passover, then instituted the Lord's Supper in Luke 22:19. Paul reminded the Corinthian

church (1 Corinthians 11:24-25) to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week to remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. He reminded them of the

1 Corinthians 11:25

King James Version

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

purpose and solemnity of the Lord's Supper and how it was to be celebrated. Some 2,000 years later, the Lord's Supper is still our weekly reminder of the extreme price Jesus paid for us on the cross.

Some things are better forgotten, such as anger, bitterness, hostility, grudges, and such. If we harbor those things, they eventually corrode our hearts and cripple our ability to see others as valuable in God's sight. It is better to focus on God's word and living it every day.

One of the most important things to remember is that we belong to God. We wear the name of Christ, and it is important for us to "act like it." Others need to see Him in us in our daily lives. We used to tell our sons, "Remember who you are." That admonition included not only that their behavior could affect our family; it was also to remember that they really belong to God. It is important for all of us to remember to whom we belong, and to act accordingly at all times. It is essential that we remember whose we are. We belong to God!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri



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